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PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER

## HARD TIMES FOR CHATEAU AGAPE

- by John Mason

If you lost your cat or dog on the street, somebody would probably pick it up and take care of it. If you lost your mind, however, and found yourself wandering the streets, people would probably just ignore.

You wouldn't be alone. There are thousands of mentally ill people living on the streets of San Francisco. While most of them stay on the street, some end up in hospitals, and others get thrown in jail. An extremely lucky few find their way to board and care facilities like the Chateau Agape.

For the past 13 years, Kathy and Leroy Looper have operated Chateau Agape at 827 Guerrero, providing shelter, food, supervision and the warmth of a home to mentally disabled people. Their operation has been financed only by the monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) checks of the residents.

Even though the Loopers take no salaries and cover many of the shifts themselves, they have found it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Every month, the Chateau has been losing \$600- 2,000; the Loopers have been paying these deficits out of their own pockets.

Now, they're running out of money. Although their facility has been praised nationwide as a model of low-cost and humane residential care for the mentally ill, they have been unable to find the support to keep it going.

"We've exhausted everything," says Leroy. He and his wife have approached officials at all levels. The city says funding for board and care facilities is a state responsibility. The state responds that it

gives the city \$60 million dollars a year to care for the mentally ill — surely they can get some money from there. The city repeats that it's a state responsibility, and so on — the buck never stops, and the bucks never come.

The story is not unique. Since 1978, the number of beds in Board and Care facilities has dropped from 1,300 to less than 550. The city has consistently refused to fund board and care housing, instead giving state funds to hospitals, community residential treatment programs and hotels or apartments.

All the city-financed facilities are geared towards people who are generally capable of living independently. The hospitals and residential treatment centers provide short-term intensive treatment, which works fine for those who suffer breakdowns and recover. What the city (and perhaps our society) wants to ignore are the large numbers of mentally ill who require not just treatment but permanent housing and care.

For these people, the city offers apartments and hotels which, in essence, serve as warehouses for both the "well ill" (who can live independently) and the seriously mentally ill (who need but don't get supervision). For the city, these facilities serve their main purpose: keeping the crazy people out of sight.

The hotels, although they provide little or no services to their residents, receive more funding than board and care facilities like the Chateau Agape. While the Chateau, which provides 24 hour supervision, all meals and even maid service, has been trying to scrape by on \$20 per resident per day, the hotels get \$25 to \$30. For this

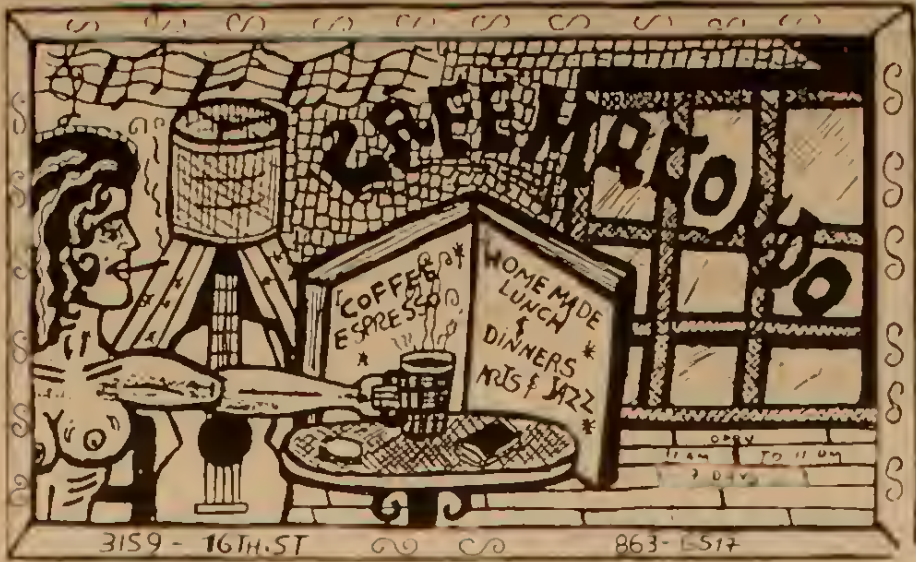
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# AGNOS FORMS MISSION TASKFORCE

At a March 21st press conference held at the 16th and Mission BART Plaza, Mayor Art Agnos announced the formation of the Mayor's Mission Taskforce. The Mayor named a 25 member taskforce executive board which will break down into issue-specific committees open to any interested member of the Mission community. The taskforce's primary objectives are to provide a coordinated approach to solving neighborhood problems and to set long term and short term goals for community development.

The recurrent Mission issues such as crime, dirty streets and inadequate city services will be addressed in a framework that includes elements of all the diverse ethnic, economic and cultural groupings of the area. Part of the responsibilities of the 25 board members will be to further broaden the taskforce base of support and expand community participation.

To that end, a series of four community hearings will take place on April 14, 18, 25 and 30 between 6:30 and 8 PM. Locations for these meetings were not firmed up at presstime, but can be obtained by calling Lisa Hamburger at Mission Housing Development Corporation at 864-6432.

Mayor Agnos expressed his hope that the taskforce "will help us insure the Mission evolves in a thoughtful way with a comprehensive vision that accomodates the diverse constellation of people who live and work there."

Taskforce co-chair Hilda Bernstein (President of the Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association) told the Mayor that "In spite of our many differences, we share goals and aspirations: we all want decent and affordable housing, we want code enforcement and sound planning for the future, we want a vibrant business and cultural community, and we want a



PRELIMINARY MEETING OF THE TASKFORCE IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.

bureaucracy which is responsive to our needs."

The other co-chair is Robert Sanchez of Casa Sanchez, representing the 24th Street merchants. Larry del Carlo will serve as liaison from the Mayor's Office and staffing will be provided by Lisa Hamburger of Mission Housing Development Corporation and Angelica Chiong of the Department of City Planning.

The taskforce members are:

Chris Ahm, architect and Korean community advocate;

Ricardo Alva, Mission Language and Vocational School;

Rita Alviar, Mission Education Project;

Chuck Ayala, Director of Centro Latino and Community College Board member;

Roberto Barragan, Executive Director, Mission Economic Development Association;

Leandro Soto, Executive Director, Arriba Juntos;

Charlie Wilson, Chair, Central Mission Merchants' Association;

Carlene Williams, President, Valencia Gardens Tenants' Association;

Pablo Wong, Member, Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Maryann Dillon, Executive Director, Mission Housing Development Corporation;

Regina Gabrielle, Director of Administration, Women's Building;

Laura Gil, Vice President, Bernal Dwellings' Tenant Association;

Jim Gonzalez, Member, S.F. Board of Supervisors,

Mary Hardin, Co-Chair, South of Mission Improvement Association;

Roberto Hernandez, Executive Director, Mission Economic and Cultural Association;

Leroy Looper, Director, Chateau Agape;

Vincent Matarese, Vice President, Inner Mission Neighbors;

Victor Miller, Editor-in-Chief, North Mission News;

Nina Pellegrini, Manager, Mission Branch of Coast Savings and President, Mission Merchants Association;

Frances Phillips, Executive Director, Intersection for the Arts, Representative for 16th and Valencia Streets Merchants Association;

Gustavo Raygosa, St. Peter's Housing Committee;

Mitchell Salazar, Executive Director, Real Alternatives Program (RAP);

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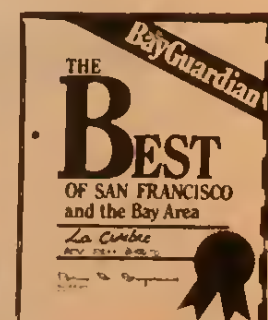
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# UNEDUCATING THE MISSION

Coming as it did only a few days after the end... well, sort of end... of the Gulf War, businesses and residents of the Civic Center area hearing the familiar chants and police sirens must have assumed that the march up Van Ness Avenue last month was just another outburst by bitter anti-warriors, sitting down in the streets for peace. Many didn't even bother to look out the window.

But those that did got a surprise... the marchers were young, middle aged and old, and many of them were students complaining about their schools except that, this time, they were demonstrating in favor of their teachers! It's a miracle that some adult, looking back less than fondly on dim memories of the sadistic harridans to whom the names of 16th century Austrian generals or the presence of X as the function of the negative cubed root quartered and squared was important, didn't faint, fall and splatter on the sidewalk... more indication that, in addition to the oil crisis, housing crisis, budget crises and other Nixonian delights we have a major, major education emergency.

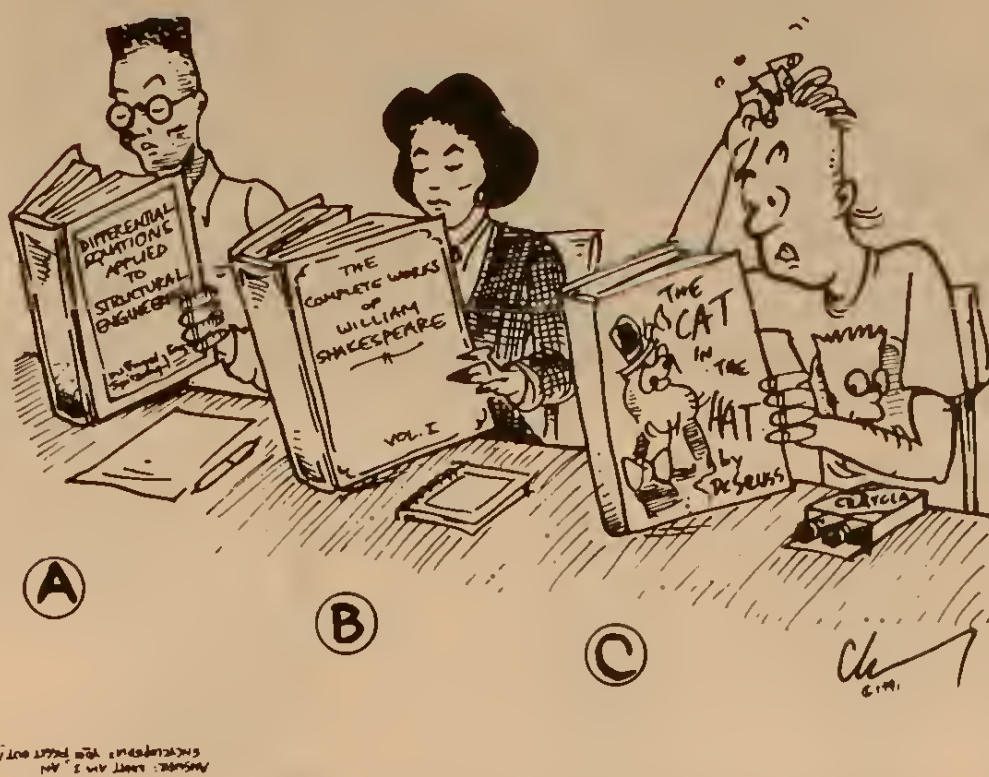
If enough San Franciscans... fifty or sixty thousand of them... get sufficiently riled up we'll have a chance to do something about it in November.

A coalition of educators and children's advocates, spearheaded by the Mission-based Coleman Advocates has filed an intent to put a Children's Charter Amendment on the November ballot - reserving 2 1/2% of City property taxes (about \$11 million) for pre and post-natal child care, job training, health, delinquency prevention, recreational and other children's services.

The alternative? Massive cuts in education and social services, including the closing of schools and termination of interscholastic sports loom as the red pencil folks at all levels of government train their sights on the one population that doesn't vote.

Margaret Brodtkin, executive director of

CONTEST PICTURE: WHICH OF THESE COLLEGE FRESHMEN ATTENDED CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS? (pick one)



Coleman, hopes that the public will recognize what the politicians don't... that the pennies saved by closing schools, day care and recreation centers and other services translate into dollars needed for welfare, cops and jails.

In its 1990-1991 Children's Budget, Coleman concluded, "What we have sown are societal attitudes which have made children expendable, especially those children who do not have the most money or the most enabled parents or the most positive environment. What we will reap is just in the infancy stage of what promises to be a

hellish harvest indeed."

Some aspects of that harvest already enumerated in San Francisco include:

Child Abuse: Up 400% between 1980 and 1990

Children Without Health Coverage: Up 300% between 1985 and 1990.

Mothers Without Adequate Pre-Natal Care: 23%

Children (under 6) Living In Poverty: 23%

Drug-exposed Babies: 1,000 (10% of all births), each year

School Dropouts: 1,500, each year  
Kids in Jail: 4,000 arrested, each year  
Homeless Children: 5,000, each year  
Waiting List for Childcare: 8,000 (1989-90, probably more now).

Based on figures given Coleman by City departments and the Budget Analyst, the share spent on children's services dropped from 13.9% of City expenditures in 1988-89 to 10.9% of the 1990-91 budget.

The latest round of budget cuts, school closings and layoffs will also deeply impact Mission students if sports and recreational programs are dropped. "A lot of students followed the team," says Ernest McNealy who coached the Mission High basketball team to the City championship and State tournament, "they have nothing else to fall back on."

McNealy has turned a lot of kids, many from single and even no-parent homes into successful college and even professional athletes but even more importantly, has given them reason to feel good about themselves... often the difference between staying in school or falling through the cracks.

He feels that without the sports and the availability of positive role models that the program brings, some will turn to "the mean things... snatching purses, making old people unhappy because they're unhappy," instead of graduating to employment or to higher education in schools like Pepperdine, San Jose State or the University of Texas. "I love kids and the ones that are down are the ones I want to work with," he told the News. But without funding, people will be more likely to read about Mission teenagers in the police blotter, not the sports pages.

The hardest part of getting the Children's Amendment passed is likely to be qualifying it for the ballot. In a maneuver believed by political observers to be aimed at preventing local district elections, Assemblyman Willie Brown successfully lobbied the State Legislature to raise the effective sig-

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- Vincent Conby, New York Times

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nature requirement for San Francisco Charter Amendments to about 60,000 signatures.

"I'm shellshocked!" Brodtkin reported at the size of the clerical and logistical task awaiting her. "But the reason it has to go to the Charter is to protect kids who don't vote, contribute to campaigns or pay lobbyists."

If it qualifies, the Amendment has a good chance of passing. Nobody has stood up to say that they're against it, and a number of politicians who doodled with the Children's Budget for years and vowed all sorts of medieval retributions if supporters resorted to the ballot are backtracking quicker than Iraqi generals. "I never said that I would be officially against it," more

than one officeholder has reportedly whined. "What is the opposition going to do... print up I Hate Kids! posters, buttons and campaign mailers?" asked Brodtkin.

She answers the implication that money for children would mean cuts in other services or taxes by pointing out examples of budgetary lard such as the new luxury Candlestick VIP box seats being given to various politicians. A real tug-of-war is likely to develop if, as is expected, a multi-million bond issue for a huge new juvenile detention tank is also on November's ballot.

Getting the political campaign started is consultant Ed Emerson, whose experience with district elections, the Proposition M growth control initiative and last year's

successful campaign against shoreline hotels...all utilizing lots of volunteers to make up for a shortage of money... will be put to the test.

"We're hoping to have the petitions ready to hit the streets by the weekend of April 6th," said Emerson. Supporters of the Amendment are compiling a video of San Francisco children to take to community forums and neighborhood meetings, as money for it to be shown on television probably will not manifest. They are seeking support from churches, day care centers, social service agencies and, of course, voting parents.

To deal with the money problem, the sponsors have tentatively planned their opening event for April 19th at the Bayview

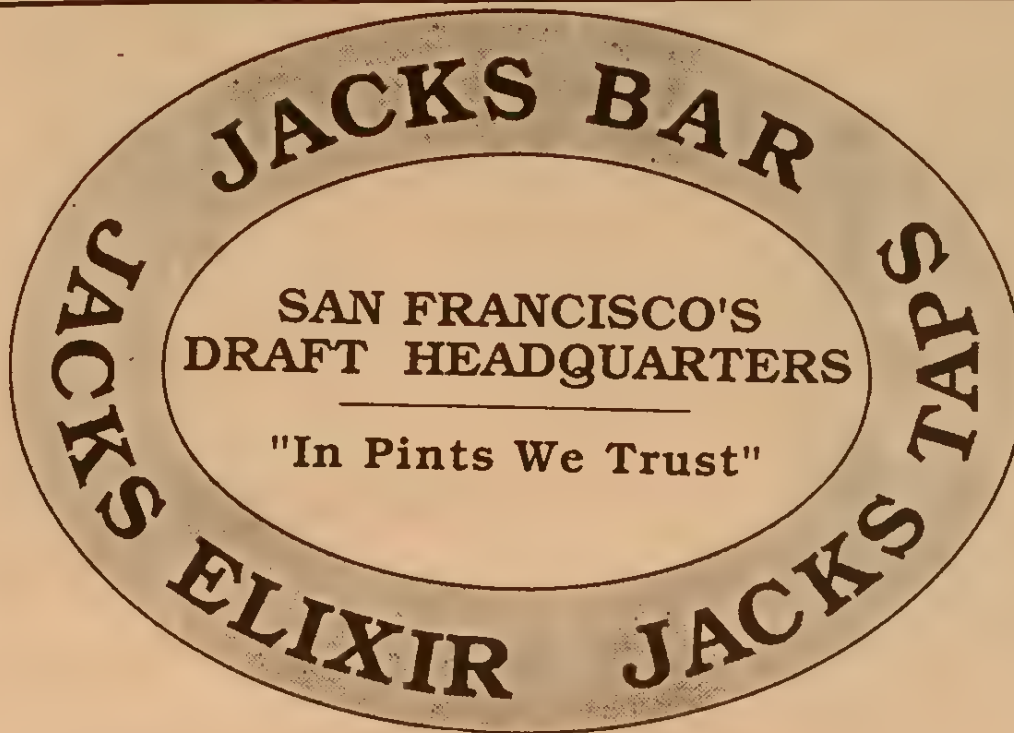
Building on 22nd and Mission.

"What has happened to children is unprecedented in our history as a humane community," declared Coleman Assistant Director Carol Hotnit-Callin. "Children, youth and families have become accustomed to gunfire and inoculated against brutality and destruction. All of San Francisco's children are touched by anti-children attitudes coupled with second-rate services."

\*\*\*\*\*

Those interested in collecting signatures for the Children's Amendment or helping in other ways can contact the campaign at 206-1331.

by Brian Doohan



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# BUSTING

- by Tara Kramer

Along the Mission corridor between 16th and 20th Streets, the stark evidence of increasing heroin on the streets is seen in the faces of those physically addicted to the "black tar", "Mexican brown", "Persian" or "China white" heroin now available in what is a growing drug trade.

"Just go to 16th and Mission at 6:30 AM," said Police Lieutenant Jim Molinari of the Narcotics Division at the Hall of Justice. "You can tell an addict by the yellow, sallow complexion. Their eyes are dilated and they have track marks on their arms, legs and feet. They stumble around. They're thin."

With nine mostly plainclothes police officers, the Mission Drug Task Force is charged with "crime abatement" along the Mission corridor, targeting the recurring street crimes mostly related to the heroin and crack cocaine trade in the area. "Going after the street crime," says Officer Daryl Ball of the task force, "takes a lot of patience. You have to know people, know who the users are, who the dealers are, just talk to people. A lot of times you have to simply wait for them to do something illegal."

Neither part of the community-relations-oriented C-POP program, nor the dispatch-for-services 911 program, the Mission Task Force enters the ecology of "the street", getting a close-up view of the world of purse-snatchers, street brawlers, street walkers, public drunks and, above all, street-level drug users and traders.

Created December 8, 1987, the task force has made 5,825 arrests, taken 91 guns off the streets and confiscated \$165,506.21 in drug money. According to Mission Station Captain John Newlin, 123 arrests were made in February of this year alone, 61 of those on felony narcotics charges.

"These people are physically sick," said task force Officer Colleen Fatooh, not a trace of anger in her voice. "They're not living - it's the most unglamorous life they could live."

"Somewhere along their way," believes Ball, "they lost their self-esteem."

The heroin out there is mean. "China white", in particular, has been known on the streets to be contaminated by an unpredictable surgical anesthetic called fentanyl.

"We've found overdoses on it," said Ball. "We found one man dead in a restaurant from it. The needle in his arm was not even fully injected, he died so quickly."

Rehabilitation programs, when available, cost \$15,000 for a 28-day program, impossible for anyone without insurance.

City-operated programs have waiting periods of three to six months. "And when someone wants to clean up, they want to clean up right away. They can't wait six months," said Fatooh.

Ball said some addicts are so desperate to be rehabilitated that a small number have been approaching them, actually asking to be taken back to jail in order to hasten entry into a detoxification or methadone program.

Ball told the story of "Dickie" who, after a night of dinner and bowling with his married, employed brother, begged to be taken back to prison for detox. "It's the life I want," Dickie told her. "So he turned himself in to me and now he's back at San Quentin in a tough detox program. God, I hope he succeeds," said Ball.

"You always have to remember," she continued, "these are human beings. They're people trying to make a living. I don't believe the drug sellers we meet are getting rich. They're here because they can't get other work."

Ball and Fatooh said the undocumented community was particularly hard-hit by the drug epidemic. "Some of them sell dope, but they're not getting rich. They're sending money to their families back home. We find giro (foreign currency transfer) receipts for \$50, \$100 amounts in their \$25 a night hotel rooms when arrested," Ball said.

She's told many of them "they're the ones being exploited" by the bigger dealers, the wholesalers and distributors who often live far away from where the drugs are being sold and used. "You get five dollars off the top to take the risks, go to prison, I tell them," said Ball.

Asked how they could arrest those they saw as society's victims, Ball said, "It sometimes amounts to something like a game we all play... You know who I am and I know who you are, it's that way with cops and dealers." She said that arresting a drug suspect was nothing personal. "Once in a while you do get a grudge but you have to put it aside because there'll be another day. Hey, I got a job to do," said Ball.

The Mission Drug Task Force faces no personnel cuts, according to Captain Newlin. Nevertheless, officers have expressed concern that, with the Mayor's aggressive new Tenderloin Task Force ("almost a tenth police station", according to Newlin) assigned to sweep crime from the Tenderloin, the Mission will face increasing social and drug problems from displaced Tenderloin residents, both criminal and simply in need of services.

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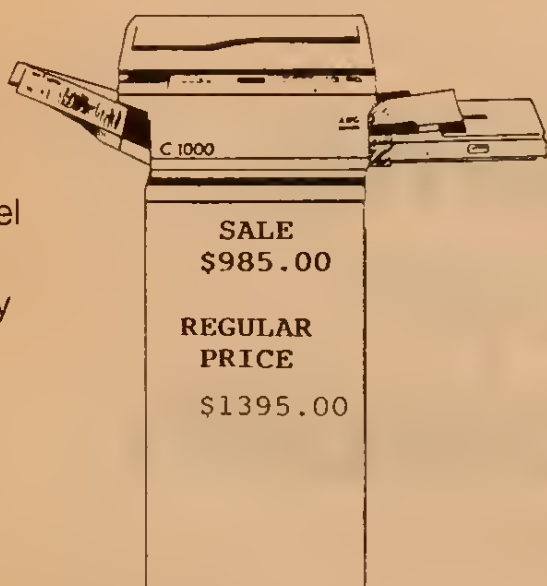
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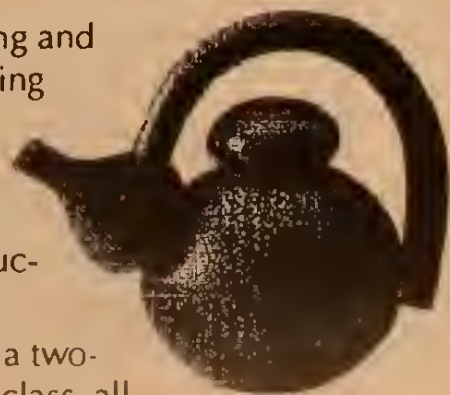


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SOMETIME THINGS ARE CASUAL.

PHOTOS  
by  
JASON ALBERTSON



# DOCUMENTING THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

- by Christian Ettinger

After being kicked off the Civic Center lawn, the homeless are making a comeback with a powerfully written anthology of short writings, titled **Homeless, Not Helpless** compiled by Barbara Pasche and Jack Volpendesta, and a critically acclaimed new film, "The Sidewalk Motel", scheduled to be shown at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street, Sunday, April 28.

Winner of Best Live Action Short at the Houston International Film Festival and starring Christopher Hewett of television's "Mr. Belvedere", "The Sidewalk Motel" will be shown as part of the "Canned Film Festival", at which admission will be free with a can of food. The event will also feature live music and artworks by local homeless people.

The Homeless Writer's Coalition calls the film, "One of the most realistic films on homelessness." Dino of the Homeless Writers' Coalition concurs, saying the film "Captures homeless in the raw," and "Shows comfortable American society how easy it is to become homeless."

The film, which has already raised



SCENE FROM SIDEWALK MOTEL

over \$25,000 worth of canned food since its release, was shot on Los Angeles skid row and received generous support from the Hollywood community. Panavision

donated the camera equipment. Fuji donated the film. Dolby labs donated the dolby sound and New Jerseyite Bruce Springsteen donated a song to be used with

the film, Woody Guthrie's "Ain't Got No Home".

The anthology, **Homeless, Not Helpless** consists of stories, poems, essays and artworks by homeless people and others who strongly sympathize with their struggles. The book is very successful in stamping out stereotypes about homeless people. The message is clear, far from being lazy, these people have had rotten luck and deserve our compassion and help.

One piece, "Baby its Cold Outside", was written by a former editor of the North Mission News, Rajat Neogy, who later ended up on the street. His graphic depiction of moving from one rundown San Francisco hotel to the next and then finally ending up in the hospital arose from personal experience.

"At Midday, I was walking around 16th St paying off bills. It was dark when I woke to bright lights and green-masked figures peering down at me.

I was told I was in the intensive care unit at San Francisco General Hospital, being treated for hypothermia. I was covered with hot lines everywhere: oxygen in my mouth, penicillin in my arms, several IVs wherever a vein showed.

I was told my body temperature had fallen to 65 degrees fahrenheit. These hot lines were shelter, were life. San Francisco General felt warm."

In another piece, "On Your Way Home," Bill Clark James writes about a completely disoriented homeless man who is desperately trying to find his way home but can't. He can't even remember who he is. Near the end of the story he remembers he had a brain tumor operation. The author's innovative use of the 2nd person (you) brings the reader that much closer to the tragedy of homelessness. In this scene, the homeless man tries to leave the library with a book he neglected to check out.

"At the gate, a furious beeping and locked bar stop you.

Look around, and a man in a blue coat comes toward you.

"Sir, you need to have that book checked out. If you'll come with me."

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In a poem addressed to the National Union of the Homeless, Jack Hirschman righteously articulates the grievances of homeless people.

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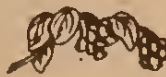
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**AGAPE** Continued from Page 1  
money, hotel residents get a bare room and little more.

There are two other options for the seriously mentally ill in San Francisco: the streets and the jails. Homelessness is the popular default — currently, about a third of San Francisco's homeless are mentally ill.

Many of these people end up in the jail system. The city seems content to let the jail system deal with large numbers of mentally ill, but we are paying the price: it costs \$60 per days to house a prisoner, more than three times what the Chateau Agape costs.

Although many board and care facilities have gone under, the prospect of losing Chateau Agape seems especially brutal. The Loopers have built a true gem for the community, restoring a crumbling mansion into a magnificent home for people who would otherwise have no home.

Today, the house feels more like the Winchester Mystery House than a mental care facility. The 14 bedrooms tucked along the winding passages are filled with antique furniture (bought at flea markets and restored), old paintings and photographs, stained glass windows and assorted trinkets. Each room is unique, bearing the careful decoration of the Loopers and the individual touches of its residents. Some of these residents have lived at the Chateau more than ten years.

"It would be criminal to kick these people out," says Kathy Looper.

The solution is as simple and as complicated as money. If the Chateau could get \$40 per resident per day (still less than the jails), they could indefinitely guarantee its residents the care they need.

Last April, the Loopers went to the Board of Supervisors with their plight. They obtained a ten-to-one vote on a resolution which would have provided the needed funding to board and care facilities. But Mayor Agnos refused to sign the legislation and, in explanation, offered the old

refrain: it's a state responsibility.

"Mayor Agnos is woefully ignorant," says Kathy Looper. "The information is out there, everyone is recommending board and care, but he just doesn't seem to get it." Myra Snyder, the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, is also unwilling to help. Ms. Snyder, who Kathy Looper considers a "mental health illiterate", claims the city would give money if only the state offered matching funds.

With this funding unlikely, the Loopers have been forced to consider other alternatives. One option is to turn the Chateau over to a non-profit which would be eligible for private grants and other forms of government funding. In addition, mental health patients who move out of the Chateau might be replaced by victims of AIDS dementia, for whom it's easier to find financial support.

The downside to the nonprofit scheme is that the Loopers would probably have to move out of the Chateau. Leaving the Chateau to a nonprofit is a depressing prospect — they have built a home, not an institution. But the Loopers would rather leave than force the Chateau's other residents onto the streets.

As one of the residents admitted, "I don't know where I'd go if I didn't have the Chateau."

The real puzzle is why Mayor Agnos, during an election year, doesn't seize the opportunity to win the hearts and votes of San Franciscans by saving the Chateau Agape. The Mayor's political fortunes would certainly benefit from a photo of him handing a bailout check to Leroy Looper.

Why not? It's possible the mayor has something personal against the Loopers, who are longtime community activists. It's also possible, as Kathy Looper suggests, that he's plain ignorant, that he can't figure out what's good for him.

A more depressing explanation is that our system is inefficient and sometimes cruel, geared more to hiding our problems than solving them.

## SLUMLORD ALERT!



On Wednesday, March 27, a group of sixty angry tenants in their bathrobes assembled at the Jamestown Community Center on Fair Oaks Street and marched to the home of notorious slumlord Bob Imhoff at 1046 Guerrero, asking in unison if they could all take a shower.

They gathered to protest the conditions Bob Imhoff allows his tenants to endure. Margaret Jarmon, a leader of the group, spoke about rat and cockroach infested hallways, crime, filth and a lack of running water.

Myrna Melgar of St. Peter's Housing Committee said that, to cope with the drought, Imhoff plans to cut off water in his

30 buildings for six or eight hours every day. Bob Irvin, a resident at Imhoff's 620 O'Farrell complained about rats, drugs and needed repairs.

Imhoff, owner of Landmark Realty with offices on South Van Ness near 17th, was not at home when the raucous crowd appeared at his doorstep requesting the use of his shower. And so, as his tenants left the demonstration, their body odor stained his property. Margaret Jarmon gave the lady of the house a letter requesting he meet with his tenants to avoid further embarrassment.

Demonstrations against Imhoff and Landmark will continue.

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# BIG PLANS FOR BARTLETT GARAGE

The Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA) has proposed taking over the Mission/Bartlett parking garage between 21st and 22nd Streets from the San Francisco Parking Authority.

According to Roberto Barragan of MEDA, "Because of vandalism and crime inside the garage, people are afraid to park there. The proposal seeks to make the garage safe for shoppers and residents." The proposal states that, currently, "the Bartlett parking facility is used more as a public bathroom than a parking garage."

MEDA proposes hiring 24-hour security to watch over and protect shoppers and residents from the robberies, rapes and vandalism that frequently occur in the currently unprotected garage. The proposal also calls for security cameras, electronic doors and better lighting to be installed. To help pay for the improvements, MEDA will ask a bank for a loan of around \$100,000 and has proposed raising the hourly parking rates from \$.30 to \$.50 per hour.

For residents, protected monthly parking will be available at \$60 per month and overnight leases will be available at \$40 per month. Low rate monthly parking passes will be given out to Mission Community College students. All net profits that MEDA receives, estimated to be \$2,000 per month when the garage begins filling up, will be used to fund the Mission Street Revitalization plan, which seeks to attract new businesses to the Mission by improving the facades of existing businesses and planting palm trees on Mission Street between 17th and 23rd Streets.

The Mission Merchants Association agrees with the proposal. Referring to the problem of crime in the garage, Christopher Collins, Parking Garage Committee Chair, wrote, in a letter to the Parking and Traffic Commission, "The only solution is an attended and secure facility controlled by an operator responsive to the community." Referring to the MEDA proposal, Collins wrote, "The benefit to our mer-

chants is so strong, that the MEDA proposal might actually act as an engine of revitalization."

The Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a proposal of its own that places more emphasis on long term parking for residents. The Association already submitted its proposal to Rina Cutler of the Parking Authority and Liberty Hill's

the garage secured, but also insists that its proposal will make the city more money. MEDA claims that the 20 percent parking tax that MEDA will pay to the city will be more money than the city currently receives from the garage's parking meters.

But the city would make even more money by giving the bid to secure the garage to a private company because a non-

private company because MEDA could never afford to pay the amount private parking companies are forced to pay. When Cutler met with the Liberty Hill Association, she recommended putting the garage up for bid - which does not bode well for MEDA's proposal.

When referring to any possible conflict with the city, Barragan said, "MEDA's philosophy is one of community economic development." He said the proposal tries to keep funds the garage raises from leaving the community so the people of the community can directly benefit. He also stressed that S&F Parking, the company that will manage the garage, will be paid a straight fee and not be given a percentage of the profit.

Christopher Collins sees the little used parking lot as a great resource that has the potential for greatly increasing the number of Mission shoppers. "I don't understand the opposition to this proposal. They must be anti-MEDA."

When comparing the MEDA and Liberty Hill garage proposals, Paul Olszewski of the Valencia Merchants said, "Either one will do because, currently, the garage is often empty. I favor the MEDA proposal because it is geared more toward increasing the number of shoppers."

City Hall, MEDA, Mission Merchants and the Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association all agree that something must be done to secure the garage. One question is: who should benefit from the profits; the city or the neighborhood?

by Christian Ettinger



BARTLETT STREET CAVERNS Photo By Jason Albertson

request for monthly resident parking in a secured facility was granted.

Hilda Bernstein, a representative from the Association, is wary about the MEDA proposal. "Although the garage must be kept safe and be used for residential parking, there should not be any city giveaway to MEDA. The city is financially strapped and should get a fair return (on profits from the parking operation)."

In exchange for taking over the parking lot, MEDA is offering to assume the \$8,000 per month the city pays to operate the lot. MEDA hopes to make a profit for getting

profit like MEDA would not make as large a lease payment to the city. MEDA originally offered to pay the city a dollar per year, but has since raised their offer to an undisclosed sum. One source worried that the city would, in the end, give the bid to a

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# WOMEN'S CULTURE KLATCH

This is the beginning, or perhaps the end, of a new column in this paper. A columnist is someone who creates a series of writings. It's a glorious and tough life. Glorious because it's hard for most writers to find work this steady. Tough because a columnist can be a stationary target. Over time people love or hate your writing and eventually you, or what is believed to be you but is only your column. So sometimes columns end as quickly as they begin.

In this series I have a couple of assignments. One is to write a Herb Caen type column. So just call me Herbita. (Only kidding. Please don't call me that. My mother, who named me, would be offended.) However, if I am a Herbita at all, I am a

Herbita in an altered state. This leads me to my second assignment.

I will write about women's culture. (No, this is not about yeast infections.) Women's culture used to be a life style, art, language, politics that was all by, about and for women. This clarity existed for one shiny, and very brief moment in the early seventies. This was before lesbians realized there may be a conflict of interest in advising women how to get along better with men; before other women realized their sister is a lesbian; before men thought it was cool to crash women only events in the name of egalitarianism.

From this chaos has grown a women's culture that is the sensibility, artistic ex-

pression, reality, vision that comes from women's experience. The subtext or perhaps the egg in which the context (or is it pretext) exists is The Mission. This means women of many cultures, ethnicities, preferences. This could include feminists, non-feminists, non-feminist feminists, and feminist non-feminists.

Adrienne Rich states the purpose: "the work that I want to do in my maturity could not be done without the existence of the growing women's culture or without the support of a women's movement... we have to remember that there have been women who did not have the kind of networks, the kind of culture, the kind of politics surrounding them, that we have... it's something we have to protect, we have to further, in order for all of us to do the kind of work we want to do, and that the world needs us to do."

I'm sure you can see that I've quite a lot to write. So this beginning cannot possibly be the end; it is only the beginning. Fasten your seatbelts; we're going on a magical women's mystery tour through The Mission.

## BRAVA!

After quite some time of doing a hermit crab routine by using various theatre spaces around San Francisco, Brava! (For Women


in the Arts) has a new studio/rehearsal space of their own (2180 Bryant at 20th Street).

Bravo (no, Brava!) for them. This is a women's theatre group dedicated to nurturing new voices, with special outreach to women of color. Brava! offers a plentiful variety of ongoing programs. As part of a guest writers' monthly reading series, special guest Cherrie Moraga will do a stage reading of her newest play in progress: April 28th, 7 PM at the studio. (Another Moraga play, *Shadow of a Man* was recently staged at the Eureka Theatre and produced by Brava!) Women's theatre luminary playwright and stage director Michelle Linfante inspires playwriting workshops. (It is an exciting mixture of colors and ages). The Taking Shape series encourages twenty minute segments of works in progress, performed at the studio. The next step up is an opportunity for one woman shows. Phone 641-7657 for information of all kinds. (Be sure to have pencil ready and write fast.)

Quick Flash: Laughable and delightful comedian Marga Gomez performs in April for The Marsh at Cafe Beano (878 Valencia, near 20th Street).

Hm! seems 20th Street is becoming a theatre district. Well gotta go now. I don't want to miss the bus...

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien



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# V.C.

- by Tim Manley

Rent control has been around since 1979. It was approved by the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Feinstein. This law restricted the raising of rents for occupied units to 4 percent annually. "It was, in a sense, drafted by the Real Estate Industry and Mayor Feinstein in order to ward off efforts to enact strong rent control," says David Spero, President of the North Mission Association.

The Rent Control Law had a major

flaw, no vacancy control. This meant that the owners could raise the rents any amount once the unit was unoccupied. Thus began a pattern of evictions for multiple reasons; the most common being owner move-ins. Every day, dozens of families are displaced by vacancy decontrol. 43% of these families were evicted, while 30% of them cite harassment from the landlord as the reason for moving.

Those most frequently evicted are tenants who have lived in their units for a

longer period of time; at least five years and generally over ten. "Because of vacancy decontrol evictions, whether they be fraudulent or legitimate, happen year after year and still happen today," says Spero. "If there's a tenant that's at really low rent, it's in the landlord's interest to get that tenant out so they can get higher rents, and the most fraudulent use is the owner move-in provision."

Those displaced do not fare well in today's market. They have an average move-in cost of \$1,400 and also find rents increasing an average of 35%. If you paid \$724 a month before you were forced to move, you would have to pay an average of \$978 in a new place according to Displacement in San Francisco, published by the San Francisco Tenants' Union in July, 1989. For some, this is 42% of their income. Even the Federal Government says the cost of housing should not be more than 30% of a family's income (up from their 25% figure before 1980).

Spero explains, "Vacancy decontrol has been the engine of gentrification and the displacement of lower and middle income people in San Francisco since the law was enacted in 1979. At several times, we had the votes on the Board of Supervisors

to enact controls on apartments when they become vacant. But, twice, it was vetoed by Mayor Feinstein... in 1980 and 1984. Otherwise, rents would be a lot cheaper in San Francisco today... at least \$100 or \$150 a unit."

After Feinstein's replacement by Art Agnos, who promised to sign vacancy control legislation but opposed a vacancy control measure in 1988, the defection or disqualification of a parade of Supervisors including John Molinari, Jim Gonzalez, Carol Ruth Silver, Terence Hallinan, Willie Kennedy and Wendy Nelder (all of whom vowed that they were the renters' friends at one time or another) has kept the loophole unchanged.

Displacement in San Francisco says "From our experience it is difficult to believe that all these owner move-ins came about because the owner honestly wants to live there when we see virtually no owner move-ins except when the tenant has lived there for many years. The honest owner move-ins are the aberration, not the fraudulent ones, it seems. The City cannot legislate morality and it is unfortunate that the local real estate market has made so many basically good people so greedy. However, the City can end the legislated incentive which fuels this greed and this incentive can only be ended if the cap on vacant units is equal to the cap on occupied units of 4-7%."

The proposed vacancy rent control would carry with it a system of rent registration with the Rent Board where the owner must register rents. With this, the new tenant could verify the landlord disclosure. Landlords already have in place a type of registration with the Rent Board, where landlords must pay a per-unit fee to the Rent Board. The Rent Board already has a registration; this registration would mean nothing more than the addition of the rent amounts. "Plus, the Rent Board should be given subpoena power," says Spero. "Unless you can subpoena landlords' records, how else are you going to verify the landlords' figures?"

This issue comes up for hearings before the Supervisors' Economic and Social Policy Committee this month. Mayor Agnos has again promised he will sign any "reasonable" legislation.

Tenants and landlords alike: express yourself by writing to Board President Doris Ward c/o City Hall, Room 235. If you are facing eviction or have other housing problems, two local counseling organizations are the San Francisco Tenants' Union (282-6622) and the St. Peter's Housing Committee (282-8877 - bilingual, Spanish counseling available).



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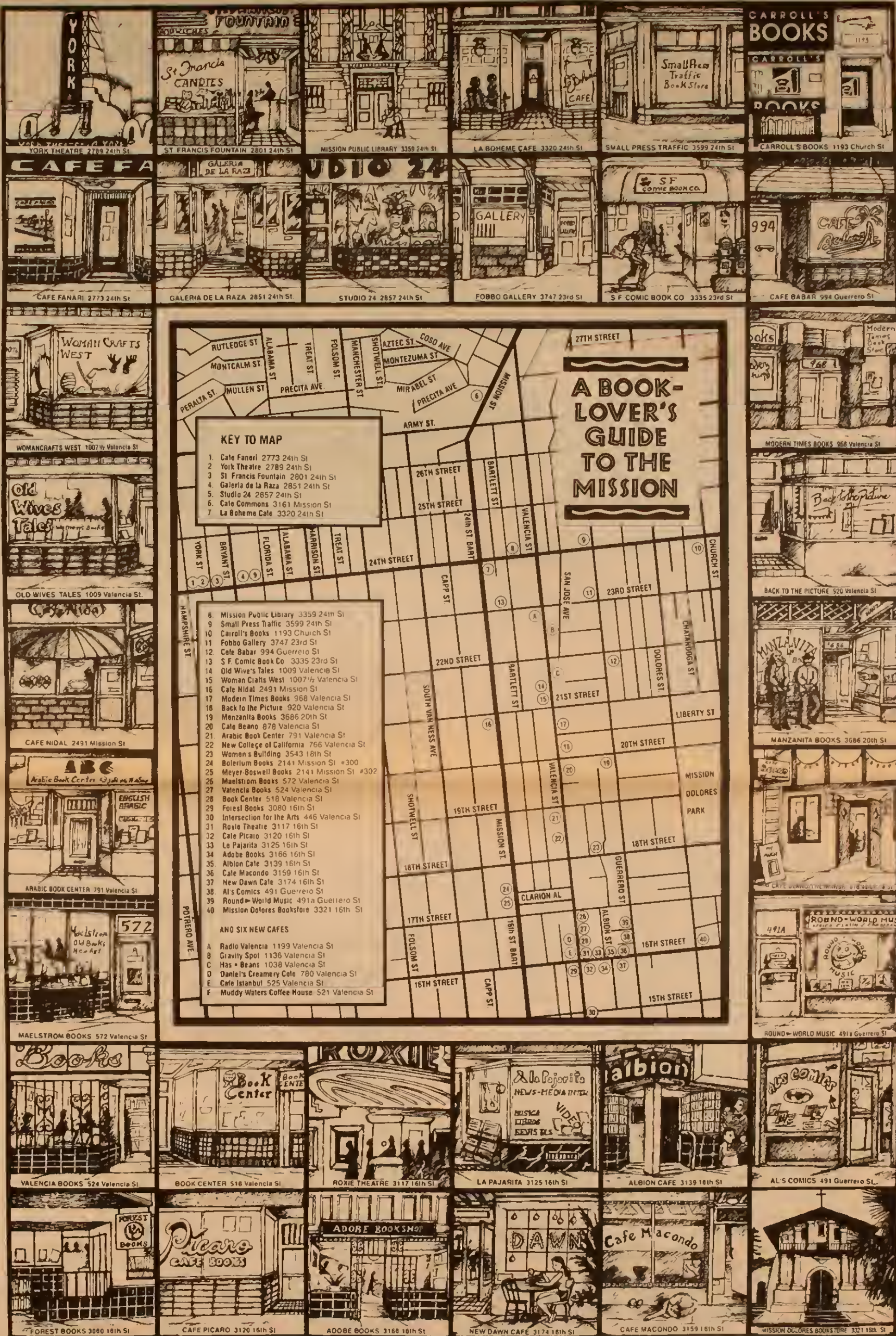
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*A BookLover's Guide to the Mission* is a handy, pocket-sized guide to the many bookstores and cafes in this culturally rich and ethnically diverse neighborhood. It also lists galleries, theatres, and other places where booklovers hang out.

The front of the map (pictured here, slightly reduced) has drawings of thirty-four shop fronts, and listings of almost fifty establishments. On the back of the map you will find descriptions of each place, along with hours of business, addresses and telephone numbers.

In a departure from the usual competitive nature of business, many of the small shops in the area, as well as the Mission Branch of the San Francisco Public Library, contributed to help make the map a reality. Wayne Holder, owner of Manzanita Used Books and Records, created the map with local graphic artist Elizabeth Newman.

### A BOOK-LOVER'S GUIDE TO THE MISSION

Newcomers and visitors can use the map to become acquainted with the neighborhood, and even long-term residents may find a few surprises. The neighborhood is constantly changing, so we plan to update the listings periodically. On this page you'll find we have added six new cafes that have opened since the first edition of the map was issued in late February.

The map is available at most Mission district bookstores and cafes. Pick up a map soon, and take a walking tour of the neighborhood!

For more information, contact:

Wayne Holder

Manzanita Used Books and Records  
3686 20th Street at Guerrero (415) 648-0957



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Fantastic Caribbean style Carnaval Group for all ages. Always an amazing and delightful large assortment of costumes with a hot soca soul beat to move you and your body in a "free-lance dance" fashion down the boulevard. An original multi-cultural get together out of Richmond. All ages Bea-234-8013

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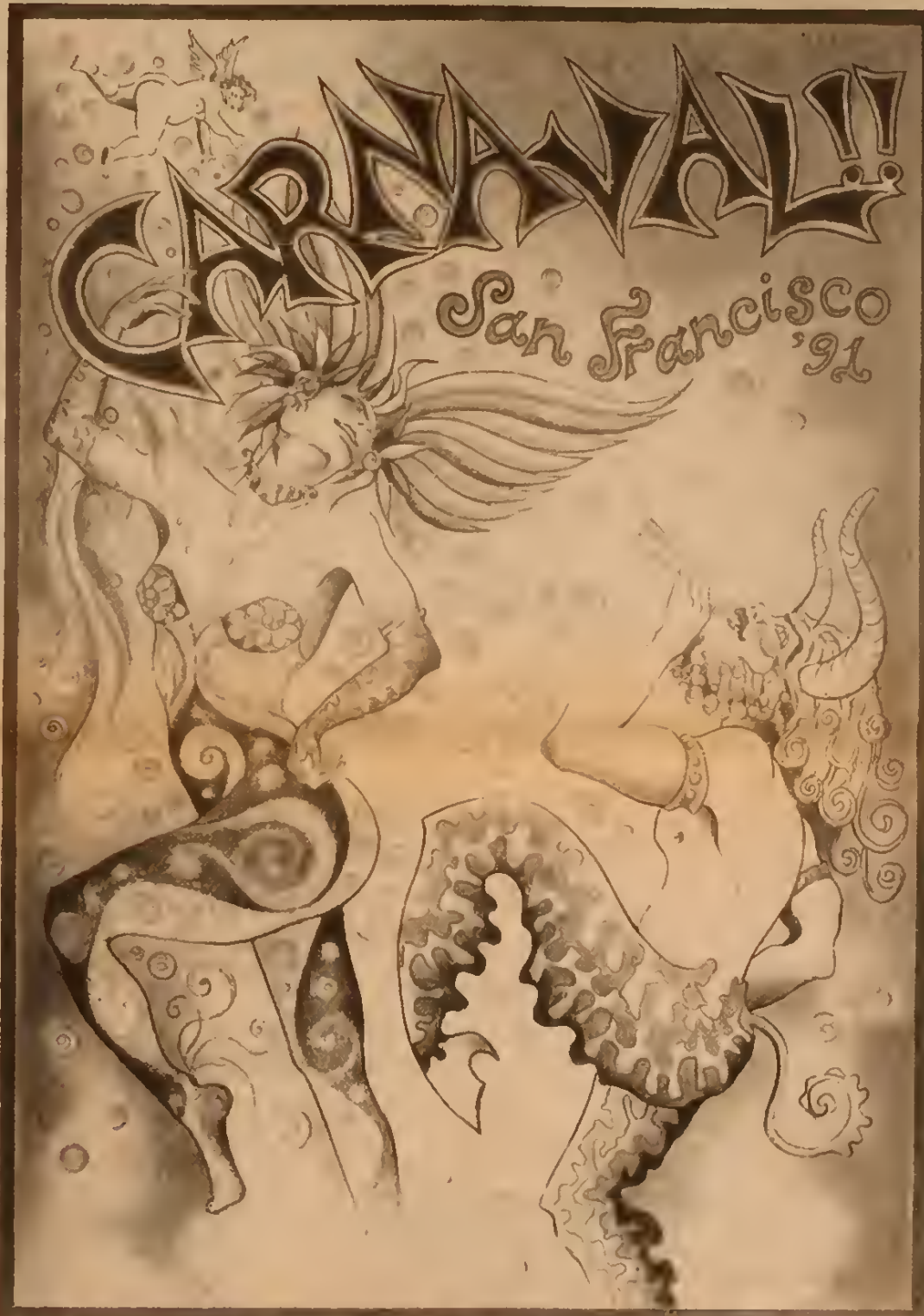
Trinidad's carnival culture means great street food and so much more. Discover the "Jouvay" tradition by signing up for a colorful costume and get ready to "wind & grind" on C'day by attending Berkley Marina parties and helping master Trini costume designer Steve Aming at Oakland "mas" camp. Lute 568-3347 Tony 532-0867

**BRAZILIAN CHAMPION '90** **FOGO NA ROUPA** **CLOTHES ON FIRE**  
Directed By **CARLOS ACETUNO**

The theme riddle: *Fogo Na Ropa has just begun...Melting hearts and having fun...Playing it cool or on the spot...In Carnaval 91 we are just plain hot...* Now famous for their high spirits no matter what the weather and great countdown parties (May in SF). Float-builder Kip Ferris is a baterista member. Percussion & samba, all ages, levels & families. Rehearsal: Sundays-2pm at Caribbe Dance (1408 Webster/nr 14th, Oakland) Carlos 592-5584.

**MISSION CULTURAL CENTER** *Artistic Director ROBERTO ANTONIO*  
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**ESCOLA NOVA DE SAMBA** **Midnight Magic**  
Directed By **CHALO EDUARDO & JOSEPHINE MORADA**

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**WISE FOOL PUPPET INTERVENTION** *Directed By K. RUBY*  
**DANCE OF THE ELEMENTS**

Expect a most auspicious street theatre debut from this collective which has added brilliant new elements to many political & spiritual SF Bay Area gatherings this last year (including Mission's Day of the Dead procession). Jules Beckman & the Urban Love Warriors will supplement still walking drummers & giant puppets. Mask-making at MCC in May (821-1155). Ruby 826-7257

**GINGA BRAZIL** *Salute to the Brazilian Children of Brazil*  
Directed By **CONCEAU DAMASCENO & DENNIS BROUGHTON**

Show-stopping dancers and costumes plus largest percussion group (5 baterias!) in the parade left the crowd awe-struck last year. Much love for the Carnaval freestyle feeling and Brazilian culture. Samba, percussion for all levels year-round. Childrens group. Wish to collect \$1 from all 400K+ at the parade for homeless children everywhere. Rehearsals at Bahia Tropical Sun 4-7pm Conceau 428-0698, Dennis 647-4764, Fred 704-0311

**PLUS DEFENDING CHAMPION '90** **MAS MAKERS**  
Directed By **DARYL DOUCHARD** *African Reflections*

It's fun. It's easy. It's incredible. The greatest Carnival artistry happens on an undiscovered Caribbean island called Trinidad. C'90 parade winners offer a great costume selection and an exciting parade production to those willing to "jump up" with the C'spirit '91 Designer from Trinidad is Barney Blätze. Oakland based. Daryl 547-2724. Suzanne 832-8110, Bob 432-9632.

**HIJOS DE ORFEO COMMUNITY**  
Directed By **BRUCE SILVERMAN** **CARNAVAL**

Better known as Sons of Orpheus, a men's mytho-poetic drumming group, which will make their debut this year after many years of fortifying other C'SF efforts. Just getting started they hope to create a fun, only in SF style production, but who knows--input is sought. All ages & orientations welcome. C'Rehearsals on Sundays in Emerville. Dan 655-1425; John 530-2032; Bruce 372-8126

**THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT** *The RA*  
Directed By **BERNARD BRAINER** **RA BAND**

During Haiti's Ra Ra season bands parade from village to village. This year's debut production will feature trickster--Ghede plus a RaRa King and the deity of love--Erzulie, plus live music. Choreography's important so sign up soon. 3rd Wave Dance 24th & Mission SF 282-4020

**MEXE MEXE** *Directed By ELMIRA COLA*  
**CARNAVAL FOLLIES**

Berkeley's been fertile samba territory for the last four years and now its time for their C'SF debut. A "Bloco" is more free form, creative and fun than a traditional "escola" presentation. All ages/levels/families welcome. Rehearsals: Finn Hall 1819 10th/ nr Hearst, Berkeley; Sun 4-6pm Elmira or Eric 525-2574

**ORIXA BA BA Bloco Afro** *Directed By BENNY DUARTE*  
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A much anticipated debut awaits you with this new group anchored by much notorious C' talent and experience (Dominique & Carmen). The Bahia region is the African spiritual capital of Brazil and C' day celebration is the most glorious of occasions. Samba, percussion, year-round, all levels. 3rd Wave Dance 24th & Mission SF 282-4020.

**THE ENCHANTED GARDEN** *BEAUTY & THE BEAST*  
Directed By **COURTNEY BULLOCK**

This is a most powerful fairy tale directed by C'SF paper mache artist of last three years. Within its simple charm are the two big themes of all Carnivals: rebirth & duality. Ambitious effort this year includes outreach to LOMA, (League of Mission Arts Organization) & mask-making at Intersection (626-2787) LOMA-David 647-4477; Courtney 252-5677;

**SAMBAO Para a Povo** *Directed By JORGE DUARTE*  
**Wage Peace with the Sun**

High production values which last year took 3rd place overall. A politically progressive viewpoint which this year rejects oil values and calls for energy alternatives. All levels & ages welcome. Percussion, samba. Rehearsals at int'l Center, 50 Oak near Market, Saturdays 11 to 1pm Roger-824-4699 Jorge 824-3032

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# WHEN IT PAINS, IT ROARS



Faithful readers of my column recall that last month I mentioned I had to go to Los Angeles for a day. Well, starting with that trip, the next 48 hours were just the most fun in my life ever, that I prayed it would end very soon. My life, not the trip.

My flight was at 8 am Friday; Super Shuttle picked me up at 6 (when I usually go to bed). This meant I made it to the airport by 6:30. To pass the time, I went to one of those airport doughnut/deli shops and ordered a turkey sandwich. And then I actually ate it. I should have divined then that things could go only downhill.

At 7:30 they announced the flight would be delayed; by 7:35, my Chronicle was exhausted of anything of value. By 9:15 I was making phone calls to friends and letting them know how lucky there were to be at work. By 10:30 I started thinking very evil things about people I hadn't thought about in 20 years, because I had already gone through all my friends. And then! We boarded! And got a wafer for a snack.

I get into our Los Angeles office at 1 pm. The big shot I have to meet sniffs, "You're so late; did you do walk from the airport?" I wanted to say, "No, so my feet are in great shape to kick someone in the balls." But of course I didn't say it; I was just too tired.

We went to a fast food Chinese place for lunch. Five hours later, I was stricken with fast food nausea. I was dying. In L.A.

I crashed in the Hilton lobby across the street from the office. I was barely holding on to life. I was so sick, I was re-reading the Chronicle. Now, here I am, a skinny little dying guy in a three-piece suit, and the security guard kicks me out for loitering. I think, "What? Loitering? why can't I be big, healthy and violent?" I had no choice but to hoist myself on an airport shuttle. I arrive 3 and a half hours before my flight.

By 12:30 I'm feeling almost alive, at last, and ready to board. They announce that 3 incoming flights were re-routed to Ontario. I just kept re-reading the Chronicle. It's 1 am; we haven't boarded. 1:30. At 2 am, they announce, "This flight has been cancelled due to weather conditions." Weather conditions. It's like you could say of some poor bastard in the Persian Gulf hit by a mortar shell, "He isn't around anymore because of his death conditions."

I get an 11 am flight. After we boarded, the pilot announced, "Due to fog conditions in SF, we will be delayed at least an hour." Annoyed, I kick the guy next to me in the shins. I'm almost fully recovered.

I got home and took a stray kitten we picked up to the SPCA. (Nothing like seeing a vet play Roto-Rooter and dig hunks of mite feces out of a cat's ear to make you

realize a cold is not so bad.) I then went into work. Why not?

After working just long enough to catch the last BART train (11:55), I then go to Walgreens to pick up some cat food for ol' mite infested, and realize when I hit my nose on the door that it's after midnight and they're closed. So I shoot down 23rd, intent on taking the shortest route to CALA.

At Capp, a very big guy said, "Hey, dude." My brain pulled it all together and screamed, "Run away!" He chased me. I've always felt that when in stressful situations, I can't help but find humor, but in this case I would have had to say, "Hey, stop dogging me so fast or I won't have time to think of a joke!"

He punched me in the head and exhaustion and gravity took its toll, so I hit the pavement. The pavement did more damage; as a trampoline, it's a complete failure. I somehow managed to get back on my feet and here is what I later concluded:

If he wanted to rob me (my guess), the idiot should have blindsided me. Or pulled a gun or a knife. When I see these, I start writing checks. But by giving me warning, I had time to think, so after this particularly bad weekend, when I got up, I was pissed. I screamed obscenities at him (well, the same obscenity, which dealt with a sexual act, and him, repeated twice), and threw whatever I could get my hands. I felt like someone in Celebrity Sports: "He shouldn't know how to streetfight from Adam, but he's not completely embarrassing himself in this competition."

I ran to 24th & Mission and called the police, hoping a squad car could cruise by 23rd and Capp and stop this guy from introducing others to the street. They made me wait until a squad car came by so I could file a report though I told them I was scared and just wanted to get on the 67 bus sitting there. "It's a busy intersection; you'll be perfectly safe." Which is exactly what the police told the heroine in *Terminator* just before Arnold Schwarzenegger showed up and wasted the west coast. Oh, well, maybe I watch too many movies.

The cops came; they told me that because I hadn't been hurt (badly), and lost nothing, they couldn't file a report. They offered a ride home and condolences. I said, "Hey, this is the first time I got punched out simply because I had a physical presence on the planet, instead of because I was a smartass. Things may be looking up." They sped up and dropped me off.

Then Sunday morning, my paper didn't arrive. To hell with life.

by Don Stevens

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# CAFES JOIN DAILY GRIND ON VALENCIA

Wake up, Mission District, and smell the coffee!

No longer is the best coffee in San Francisco found only in North Beach. Muddy Waters and Cafe Istanbul located side by side, have joined the ranks of coffee clubs in the neighborhood and are serving up a heavenly brew. Affordable rents and eclectic atmosphere of the 16th and Valen-

seurs playing backgammon, chatting with friends, or poring over books and newspapers. "People like to be in a place where they can talk," says Faraj, who also owns three other cafes, Royal Ground on Polk Street, Royal Ground on Sacramento and Horse Shoe Cafe on Haight Street.

He says San Franciscans are serious about their coffee. He buys over six thou-

Unlike owners of the Muddy Waters Cafe, Azzam Shibli does not have a following yet. He and his brother, Gasan, are new at the business of running a cafe. Located next door to Muddy Waters at 525 Valencia Street, Cafe Istanbul opened its doors only one week after Muddy Waters Cafe and will tempt coffee lovers with yet another choice.

The cafe has comfortable window seating, allowing patrons to sip their coffee and tea while seated barefoot on colorful cushions. The unique floor seating is popular among the cafe's customers. "Everyne

in the neighborhood and says he knows many of the owners. "We're helping each other to make the neighborhood nicer."

To Shibli, this lively Mission intersection is reminiscent of a Middle Eastern "Souq" or marketplace, where businesses are concentrated into one small area. He says while Middle Easterners are not known for cooperation with one another, "this is one place where they do cooperate".

Farji agrees with Shibli, "There is always room for one to make it," he says "There is always room for an original idea."

In an effort to foster continued political



MUDDY WATERS CAFE Photo By Jason Albertson

cia Streets have attracted new such businesses and are making the intersection among the most thriving in the Mission.

Located at 521 Valencia at 16th Street, Muddy Waters serves their coffee drinks in a style that has become typical among Mission coffee houses. The walls are covered with colorful, oversized canvasses. The smell of exotic beans leaks out onto the sidewalk, seducing pedestrians into the cafe for a taste on their way to work.

After more than eight years in the business, owner Ramzi Faraj has perfected a blend of five types of beans guaranteed to make even the most punctual linger over a second cup. Although they do serve an assortment of pastries, the cafe puts most of their efforts into what they do best, coffee.

On any given night of the week, the tables are crowded with coffee connois-

sandpounds of coffee a month to supply his cafes and believes that cafes like the Cafe Picaro, Cafe Macondo Muddy Waters and Cafe Istanbul will literally replace bars and nightclubs in the area.

Despite a reputation tarnished by drugs and crime, Valencia between 16th and 23rd Streets continues to be popular among new business owners and patrons alike. "At first I was scared being here," says Elham Massarweh, who has managed Muddy Waters since the cafe opened on February 18th and is a partner in the business with her husband Hisham. "Now, I am very comfortable here." According to the owners, many of the same customers from the Horse Shoe Cafe frequent Muddy Waters. The clientele are primarily students who come to the cafe to listen to music and read.

\*\*\*\*\*



CAFE ISTANBUL PHOTO BY JASON ALBERTSON

wants an opportunity to take off their shoes," says Shibli. The menu features traditional Mediterranean items, as well as traditional Turkish coffee. Laced with cardamom, this morning drink is guaranteed to have even the most caffeine-tolerant drinkers skipping to the BART.

Shibli doesn't consider his neighbors or any of the other cafes on the street competition. "We complement each other," says Shibli, who says each cafe and restaurant offers something special and unique to the community. He regularly patronizes cafes

activism in the Mission District, Shibli will help sponsor events to educate Mission residents on international issues. Both owners plan to use their cafes as forums for local artists to display and perform their work. At Muddy Waters Cafe poetry readings and live music will be featured throughout the week.

(Cafe Istanbul is open 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Muddy Waters is open 7:30 AM to 11:00 PM, weekends until midnight.)

by Sarah Baker

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# LIVE IN APRIL

- by Richard Reineccius

Quite a number of new or rarely produced plays opened in theatres in the Mission in March. I caught three that are running well into April in Mission and nearby South of Market. All are very high energy productions, all are worth the trip.

**JIMMY BEAM** - At Intersection for the Arts (446 Valencia near 16th, 626-3311), John O'Keefe's first play is on the boards through April 14. Called "an autobiographical tale of an abused boy" in a *S.F. Weekly* interview, it is violent, loud and relentless in Chris Brophy's production, with David Barth as the hapless Jimmy.

been a favorite of college-age male actors since it was published in English forty years ago. It's a very short, expressionistic playlet written to actually be played in the lobby of the theatre during the interval between halves of Brecht's soldiers' play *A Man's A Man*, in part to spoof the seriousness of his longer play. Played by the characters of AMAM, it depends a bit on the intended setting for understanding.

Director David Berkson, who stages the play for The Human Family Pain, has added a musical number from another Brecht play and the group improvises a card game scene to add length and let the Elephant Calf stand alone. The eight soldier-actors keep the pace moving briskly,

at moments, wildly illogical and violent in others, it's performed in a style reminiscent of Edward Albee or Eugene Ionesco at their expressionist best. The two women, Laura Meshel and Elyse Ashton, complement Wood's psychiatrist excellently. Meshel's Patient quickly becomes a worthy opponent to the Shrink. She's the kind of hard-working, skilled and attractive performer larger theatres would try to seduce away if she weren't a partner in her own company. Ashton's Secretary is bumbling, funny, and her bits are timed just right. All three have played together before, and it shows.

No one's credited as director - and that's OK in this case. A director might have spoiled the fun.

Catch this show. A footnote: A fine, colorful showing of prints and paintings by Jeanie Pettigrew lines the lobby walls, and the artist herself serves you your coffee and brownies before and after the play. Also, the night I attended, a young band with a lot of talent and original songs played free afterward, and everyone stayed.

**ALSO PLAYING:** You don't get to see *Macbeth* often, and there's a production of it at The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre (953 De Haro, 839-9271). Directed by Paul Roach, it boasts an experienced cast. I haven't seen it yet, but plan to before it closes April 6th.

**OPENINGS:** *The Marsh* at Cafe Beano (Valencia near 20th street) is the Mission's hottest new live performing arts spot. Founder Stephanie Weissman has kept this endeavor going at various watering holes in SF, and it's now found a great, intimate home at this food and coffee house. There's too much to describe, something every night. Pick up an April Marsh Calendar or call 641-0235.

**COCA COLA MOON:** is a dance-theatre work that sounds promising, premiering at New Performance Gallery (3153 17th Street, near South Van Ness, 863-9834) on April 10, playing through the 21st. It's an adult fable with music, dance and masks, written by Sandra Sharpe, with choreography by Emily Keeler, inspired by stories of young Nepalese girls, chosen as living goddesses, who are dethroned once they bleed at puberty, and are cast out to become prostitutes. The story could sound familiar to nearby women plying their trade on Capp Street.

Mission District playwright David Barth's newest play, *The Last Frontier* will have its premiere across town at the Magic Theatre (Fort Mason Center, 441-8822) on April 10, playing just two weeks, through the 20th. It's about murder in an Alaskan cannery. Dave's plays are always worth seeing.



**OPTIMIST CAST MEMBERS COLM WOOD, LAURA MESHEL AND ELISE ASHTON**

Set in a travelling sideshow to give a circus-like ambience to the boy's life in and out of orphanages and foster homes, the play attempts to drive home the sense of fear, inferiority, loneliness and need for any level of physical contact, sexual or other, with another human being.

The cast of nine humans plus one farm animal works well together, as they must in this very physical play. Barth does some of his best acting in this one, and all the players have their own fine moments. Seeing it one night after opening, this writer wanted more humor, subtlety and seductiveness interspersed with the violence. The terror doesn't build if the hitting is too constant. No doubt the ensemble feeling and trust has built after the players have badgered a few audiences.

You're warned by the ticket seller to watch your feet if you sit in the front row. I'd say wear steel-toed boots and pack a defensive weapon.

**THE ELEPHANT CALF** - At 21 Bernice (on Bernice Alley, between 12th and 13th Streets in the block between Folsom and Harrison, 863-5946) is one of Bertolt Brecht's earliest works. Written in 1924, it is - in the words of critic/scholar Martin Esslin - "an attempt at creating a kind of sideshow based on pure clowning", which "anticipates the 'antitheatre' of thirty years later.

It's a confounding but fun piece that's

but on opening night lacked confidence in their skills to let us fully enjoy their clowning. They need to slow it down in places, speed it up in others, let the slapstick of it come through, and acknowledge they're as confused by this free-association experiment of this master playwright as we are.

As played, it's still fun, it's cheap and it's short. When it's over, wander up the street to Hamburger Mary's, if it's open, for drinks and a sandwich. If the actors join you, make them play the whole thing again at the bar after belting down a few. You may all start to understand it better. Call me, I'll come join you.

**THE OPTIMIST** - At the tiny new Theatre Pomgranite (495 Clementina at Sixth Street, off Folsom, Colm Wood wrote and plays in this one-act premiere about a troubled psychiatrist, a forgetful female patient and a vengeful secretary. For you who've already seen too many satires on psychiatrists, check this one out anyway. Wood is a genuine new voice on the SF theatre scene.

"The Optimist", his second play, has cleverness and insight into modern urban dwellers' psyches - the doctor prescribing pills the patient knows won't help "in the long run", brushing aside her sensible observation with "Get with it... this is a NOW society. Immediate gratification, what else do you need?"

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# THE MEICES

From a purely subjective standpoint, the Meices are one of my favorite local bands. Bar none. It's important to abolish any notions that might concern this journalist's objectivity, whatever code of honors they might hold. What a joke, particularly when it comes to rock and roll.

I first caught the then-four-piece band one night last April at the Paradise Lounge, well into my fifth beer and curious to see who willed themselves (and were actually pulling off) a splendid cover of the Go-Go's "We Got The Beat". Lo and behold, The Meices were on stage, driving through the song with all the pop essentials, and raunchy attributes needed to mock such a rah-rah, new-wave leftover. What's more, their original material kept the audience dancing. Elated I'd found a wonderfully self-effacing, cavorting-in-the-coolest-sense-type of band, I strode up to the wiry bass player after the set.

"You guys are great! I write for a local paper and, uh, can I do story on you?" I drunkenly inquired. Appearing more scared of me than he probably imagined, the bass player quietly replied, "Uhm, talk to our manager, I guess." Call my approach a writer's faux pas, but with The Meices it only seemed right to slur and grin for The North Mission News.

Of course next morning's hangover wake had the last word of conscience; it took me a couple months to get some nerve back to see another Meices show. But it wasn't difficult. Sober, they're still a great band. Now, a year later, The Meices Interview lays before. Some suggested background notations on the band's history and overall character have been offered:

Lead singer/guitarist Joe Reineke and bassist Billy Cohoon originated The Mice in Jacksonville, Florida,

including drummer "Big Paul" Norman. When Norman landed a job in California, Joe and Billy decided it was a now-or-never opportunity to get out of the swamplands.

Settling first in Santa Cruz and, later, Monterey, The Mice cut two LP's ("Say No To Cheese" and "Who Cut The Cheese?"), played at what few venues existed and received favorable acclaim from critics

Joe was recently tagged "The 1990's answer to the American anti-hero." The Mice left Monterey with new drummer Marc Turner (ironically, Big Paul didn't find Caly to his expectations, returning to Florida) and found themselves nesting in San Francisco.

Catheads' guitarist/vocalist Mark Zanadrea was part of The Mice/Meices, supposedly disappearing after hooded proselytizers from Ukiah made frequent visits to his home. Promises of free meals and lots of neat books to read rumoredly lured him away.

'Nuff said! Let's begin. TIME AND PLACE: a Tuesday night, in a beer-can-infested rehearsal space in West Oakland. Practice has ended and the Meices trio sit down with some (surprise!) beers and a gushing journalist.

North Mission News: How long have you been up here in San Francisco?  
Billy: A couple of years. We left Florida in '87 and were in Monterey/Santa Cruz for a year, year-and-a-half. It didn't take long to get sick of the scene down in Monterey.



PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER

NMN: Who first booked The Mice in San Francisco? Word obviously trailed up...

Joe: The Covered Wagon...

B: Yeah, there was like, four bands playing. All I remember was that it was one of those early Sunday shows and we were supposed to go on at 5 or 6 PM. We showed up late and the manage-

ment was giving us shit, like "Oh! You 'jes barely made it boys! One more minute and you wouldn't be playing." We thought, "So here we are, in San Francisco!" But as a band, they treat you well here.

NMN: Compared to the treatment you received in Monterey? People probably didn't know what to



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make of you.

J: Yeah, I guess so. It is more conservative down (in Monterey) but the fact we weren't trying to be the next Huey Lewis was appealing enough to actually come see us.

NMN: Marc, you grew up in Monterey and that's obviously where you all first met.

Marc: Joe was a god in my eyes! (Laughs, suddenly becomes serious.) I mean that, but don't print it. No really, I had played in a couple of bands since high school, but nothing special. I saw The Mice a few times and thought they'd be fun to play with.

J: (cooly) That's really sweet, Marc.

M: F\*#@ You!

NMN: Getting back to "treatment"...

J: Call it Bad Attitude. In Monterey it seemed like people running the clubs would basically treat us like dirt, and then charge us for it.

B: "Three dollars for that beer! Now leave!" "Three dollars for parking! Oh, you parked across the street? ARE YOU SURE?" Stuff like that.

J: It sucked, so we started bringing our own beer.

NMN: But you guys must have brought people in or it wouldn't have been worth it to book The Mice.

J: It's like why we left Jacksonville, you can only tolerate so much for so long.

NMN: And cream pies? I remember reading some article about The Mice throwing cream pies at the audience or vice versa.

J: (sheepish grin) That was when we were in our performance art period. Nah, we don't do that kind of thing anymore.

NMN: One of my favorite Mice/Meices

songs is "Hair and Image", next to "Needs a Name" and "Bad Posture Couch" of course. You never play it, unfortunately. It's so apropos when you see all these hair-extension hands coming out of Marin.

J: Well, there's other material we prefer playing. That's nice to say that though. We just don't want people to... (hesitates, another big grin) ...to take our music personally.

J: Uh huh. MTV isn't worthy enough for shots of Oakland. It might be premiered in Canada.

NMN: Or some underground cable network, if there is one?

J: We'll make one! The guys that had the idea to shoot the video are these young, independent filmmaker-types that could be into something along those lines.

NMN: A couple ending questions. When are you guys playing in April?

J: On April 6th we're playing at the El Rio (3158 Mission) at Merchant's in Oakland on the 13th... that's the day my brother's getting married. I'm going to New Orleans to be in the wedding, and then flying back for the show.

NMN: Beautiful.

J: We're playing with Harm Farm and Pucage. Then, on April 18th, we play with Colorfast at the Chameleon (853 Valencia).

NMN: Mission gigs! My editor will like that. Speaking of the Mission, any hangouts you frequent in the Mission?

B: the Albion's cool, although Joe spends the most time there, out of us three. Chicks.

J: You better not print that or people will start avoiding it.

by Kristy O'Rell

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# ROACHES, ROACHES, ROACHES!!!

*Editor's Note: The last North Mission News featured an angry letter to this department from the "Raccoon Network", accusing us of an "anti-roccoon manifesto". This letter was an obvious deception, probably a CIA disinformation tactic to split the raccoon movement.*

*For from being anti-raccoon, our piece ("Masked Bandits Run Amok", February) praised raccoons for their strength, intelligence and good looks. All of the coon control measures I cited were nonviolent, and most of them are ineffective.*

*In fact, I ran this piece by a number of raccoons before submitting it, and they called it "balanced" and "fair". They also said they had never heard of the "Roccoon Network" and suggested our correspondent was a dupe, a doper, a police agent, or all three.*

*"It sounds like she's got her fur on too tight," said one. "Send her to run with us on Mount Sutro for a couple of weeks and we'll straighten her out."*

*But I certainly don't want to offend the Animal Rights Movement. I'm a cord-carrying Green, after all. So future articles will clearly reflect onimalist politics, starting with this one, colled:*

## Rooehes: Your Friends in the Kitchen

They were here long before we got here; they'll be here long after we're gone. But only in the 20th Century have cockroaches become stars of cinema, literature and comic strips. In fact, unlike most animals on this human-dominated planet, roaches consider us their best friends.

They like us - our food, our warm houses, our dirty underwear. They follow us around like dogs, but without the obsequious drooling and tail-wagging. When the U.S. military set up the first research station on Antarctica 40 years ago, roaches moved in within a week.

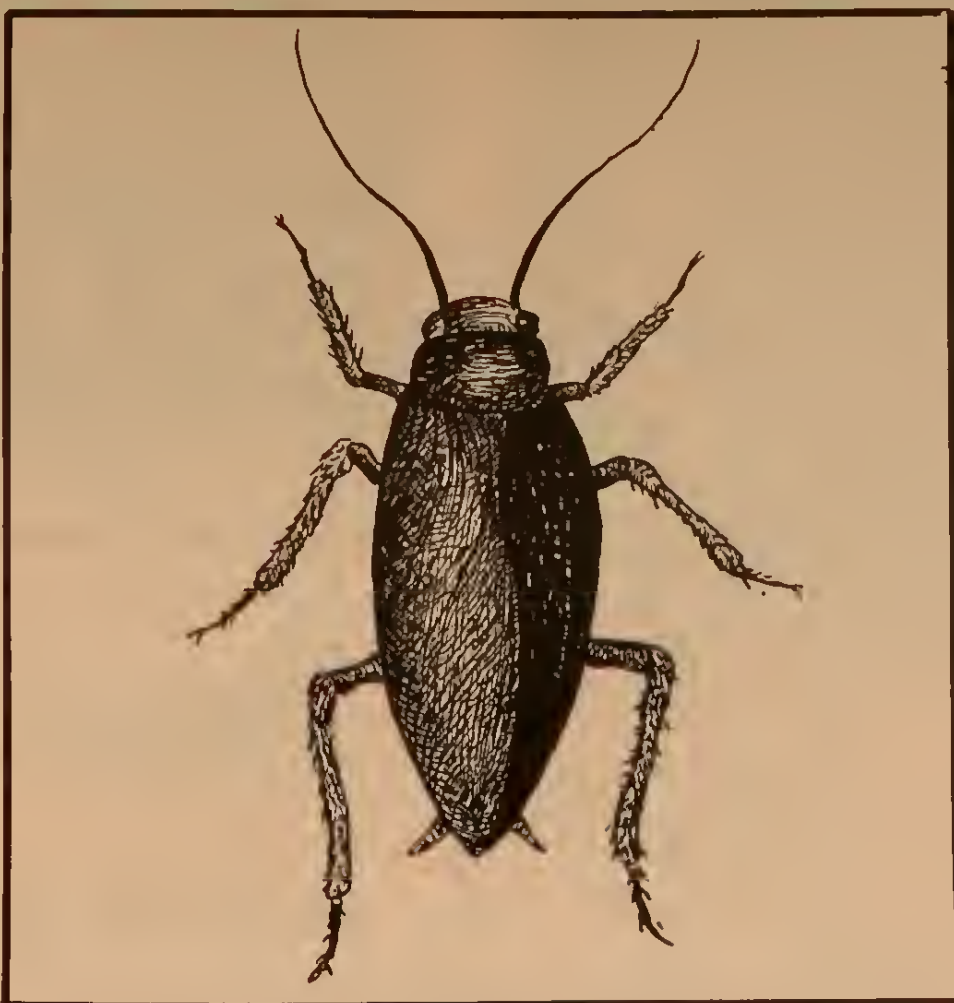
They like what we're doing to the Earth. Global warming? No problem - they love it warm and dry. Heat is their first need, their prime directive — that's why they live in your ovens and motors. They are not getting out of bed to buy the paper on Sunday.

Nuclear waste? Not even worth mentioning - their tolerance for radiation is virtually unlimited. If we kill ourselves off in a nuclear war, the roaches will probably be our only mourners.

They like our cities best of all. If not for the warmth provided by human houses, roaches would be confined to the tropics, their home for 300 million years before people came on the scene. They have the ability to flatten themselves out and crawl into the tiniest of cracks, invading any space in search of heat and crumbs.

## Ultimate Survivors

Roaches are incredibly tough. If you squash fifty of them (something we would



never do, of course) and leave the carcasses out over night, only ten will be left by morning. The rest will have walked away, according to Co-Evolution Quarterly.

Ken Howie of Orkin Exterminators respects roaches the way any general respects a valiant enemy army. "They don't become immune to poison, but they do get resistant. They reproduce so fast, and you can't poison the egg sacs — they're too thick. They're really tough."

Of course, the North Mission News does not advocate Howie's chemical methods (although he says California has the toughest safety laws in the country and there's no risk to customers or sprayers). Instead, we advise you to negotiate with roaches as equals.

A 1972 edition of Co-Evolution Quarterly reported that certain New York apartment dwellers had succeeded in psychically striking deals with their roach neighbors, (i.e. "you don't come out when I'm around, and I won't try to kill you"). As far as we know, this approach has not worked with San Francisco roaches, but keep trying.

They'll eat anything - not just food, but shoe polish, ink, cuticles and eyelashes (the last two right off your body). They're particularly fond of soap. One crumb of soap can keep ten roaches alive for a month. They haven't lasted 300 million years by being picky.

They don't practice birth control either. Females lay egg sacs, each containing thirty to forty eggs, every couple of months. The young take ten months of solid eating to fully mature and grow their wings.

Unlike suburbanites who flee our cities in search of wide-open spaces to pollute, roaches like tight spaces (around 1/16"). They don't need much; just a warm crack in the wall and an occasional crumb. The bigger the city, the better they like it - New York is their favorite American haunt.

## Media Stars

Those of you who read Berke Breathed's "Outland" are probably already cockroach fans - the roach gets all the best lines. But that's nothing new.

Newspaperman Don Marquis made a tidy living for himself in the Depression era by attaching his name to columns written by a philosophical bug named archy.

Franz Kafka's most famous story, "Metamorphosis", begins, "Gregor Samsa awoke one morning to find he had been transformed into a six-foot cockroach." (And what's wrong with that? we hasten to add.)

Kafka's roach was probably Blatella Germanica, the German cockroach. This

flightless bug is the most common roach in San Francisco kitchens. It's not really German. Like most roaches, it probably originated in Africa. Other species can fly quite well, so count your blessings.

Cockroaches have starred in recent films such as "The Nest", a drive-in classic so awful even Joe Bob didn't check it out. (It's totally unrealistic, by the way - the humans win in the end!)

A better effort was the recent Japanese import "Twilight of the Cockroaches". When this movie played the Roxie last year, the crowd was about evenly divided between fans of the roaches and of the humans.

As the climactic battle grew in intensity (with thousands of bugs cruelly massacred by chemical weapons), feelings in the theater ran high and a number of patrons almost came to blows. Of course, the true roach advocates (such as myself) preferred to remain nonviolent. You don't last 300 million years by fighting every fool who calls you names.

Songs also have been written about the noble cockroach. We all know "La Cucaracha", but country tunes on roach themes have charted, and "The Roach on the Wall" was a rap hit in 1988.

## Disease Carriers?

Critics claim roaches spread disease. Olga Jauriqui says they transmit staphylococcus and streptococcus, causing food poisoning. Ms. Jauriqui is San Francisco's Environmental Health Technician for the Mission District. "They walk through sewers and garbage; then they walk on your food," she says.

But the "Encyclopedia of the animal Kingdom" by Maurice and Robert Burton, says, "As far as is known, they do not convey any disease." (Perhaps the anti-roach publicity of the Health Department is just a typical speciesist attempt to blame the victim.)

Ultimately, it doesn't matter what we say or do about roaches — to them, we're just a passing amusement, an entertaining but insignificant chapter in their immense history. It is good that our culture has recognized the roach, because the way we're going, they're the only ones who will be around to enjoy what we have left behind.

by D. Michael Spero

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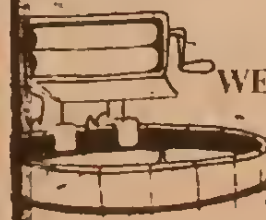
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## DEMAND WORKPLACE SAFETY

Investing in the health of employees will become a necessity in the nineties for businesses and corporations, which can no longer afford the economic burdens associated with low productivity, absenteeism and job turnover caused by physical and emotional stress in the workplace.

Two problem areas repeatedly mentioned by workers (and the list is long), are the physical stress caused by the office environment, and the psychological stress caused by inflexible work schedules.

Modern office buildings have sealed windows (or no windows) and depend on recycled air for ventilation. These systems rarely provide adequate oxygen needed for alertness and concentration; they circulate dust and mold which increase allergy symptoms, and spread cold and flu viruses. Ambient cigarette smoke remains a problem in many offices despite findings which relate lung cancer and other respiratory diseases to second hand smoke.

The average work "cube" is a cramped, artificially lit space which restricts movement and breathing, resulting in fatigue,

eyestrain, headaches and neck and back pain. The increased incidence of "repetitive motion injury" such as carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis is evidence that workers are over-producing at poorly designed work stations which promote these injuries. If left untreated, these conditions can become permanently disabling.

Inflexible schedules and long work hours are underlying causes of stress-related illnesses. Many workers are putting in 50 and 60 hour weeks. Commute time may add an hour or two to the work day. Time for rest, relaxation, childcare and family activities is limited. Maintaining a healthy diet, which requires planning, shopping and preparing meals, is an impossibility for many workers, who eat on the run and skip meals. Vacation time is short for American workers, whose European counterparts seldom work more than 11 months annually.

In the last twenty years, pressures in the workplace have grown, and the quality of life for the average wage earner has fallen. Leisure time has diminished, and stress related diseases have increased.

to athletic facilities, stress management programs and cooking areas which will enable workers to maintain healthy routines as a natural part of the day.

Managers must re-examine the traditional nine-to-five work structure, which may not remain the rule as telecommuting and flex time grow in popularity. Much work can now be done in home offices equipped with telephone and computer hook-ups; many workers are far more productive when left on their own.

Healthy, relaxed workers are more motivated, efficient and creative. Investing in the well-being of workers takes planning, vision and hard work, but the benefits are priceless for everyone involved.

by Lisa Berkelhammer

Lisa Berkelhammer is a State and Nationally Licensed Acupuncturist/Herbalist and Nutrition Consultant. Her private practice is in San Francisco.

## EYE CARE

### LOOKING GOOD

- by Chester Quan, O.D.

Eye glasses not only improve the way you see — they can also improve the way you look. Follow these tips to minimize certain features and maximize your attractiveness.

\*If you need help seeing close-up, you're farsighted. Glasses for farsighted people tend to magnify the eyes. Your eye make-up should be subtle. Select neutral eye shadow colors like brown, gray, mauve and plum, and blend carefully for soft, smokey effect. Don't use eyeliner — it will overemphasize your eyes. And be sure to wear lipstick to balance out your face.

\*If you need help seeing faraway, you're nearsighted. Your glasses tend to make your eyes look smaller. Use make-up to enlarge and emphasize your eyes. Draw a fine line of a neutral color along the

edge of the upper lid, and use several shades of eye shadow. Apply mascara to both the upper and lower lashes. And remember that bright lipsticks can overpower your eyes, so use a subtle shade.

\*To "lighten up" heavy eyebrows wear a thin, lightweight frame, preferably rimless at the top.

\*If your hairline is receding, choose a frame that's straight along the brow line. This will reduce the appearance of a large looking forehead caused by a sparse hairline.

\*Beards are nice, but they can sometimes make a man look "bottom heavy" in the face. You can balance out your look with a square bottom frame style.

If you have more questions regarding this topic or any eyecare issues, please contact Dr. Quan's office at 3199 16th Street, 241-0240

## CHIROPRACTIC CARE

### CONQUERING NERVOUS TENSION

- by Robin L. Silverman, D.C.

Americans are a busy, ambitious people, moving at a rapid, demanding pace. This high pressure creates abnormal tensions in otherwise healthy people engulfed in an ever-increasing technological society.

How do you know you are suffering from tension? Watch for these signs:

1. Do you talk extra loud, extra fast, in a higher pitch than normal?

2. Do you have a "washboard forehead"? Occasional frowning is a normal reaction for a person under control - but it can be a sign of mounting tension.

3. How is your posture? When you lie down, check your neck and shoulders for tightness. Does the small of your back relax into the comfort of your bed... or does it stay tense and rigid? Do you have difficulty falling asleep or do you awake very early?

When your neck, back, shoulder, ab-

dominal, pelvic or thigh muscles are taut, they may pull your spine out of normal alignment. Psychic stresses, as well as physical and chemical stresses, can cause misalignments of vertebrae, compounding nerve tissue insults and consequent aches, pains and functional disturbances. Serious disorders can be the result.

Nervous tension creates physical as well as mental problems, harnessing human potential. If you find yourself irritable or constantly "on edge" and not easily able to relax or to concentrate, it would be wise to consult a doctor of chiropractic.

S/he is highly skilled in correcting spinal misalignments, reducing spinal tension and aiding the restoration of normal nerve function to all vital organs of the body. In addition, the doctor of chiropractic can recommend a thorough program for releasing tension, developing your ability to relax, and more adequately coping with environmental stress.

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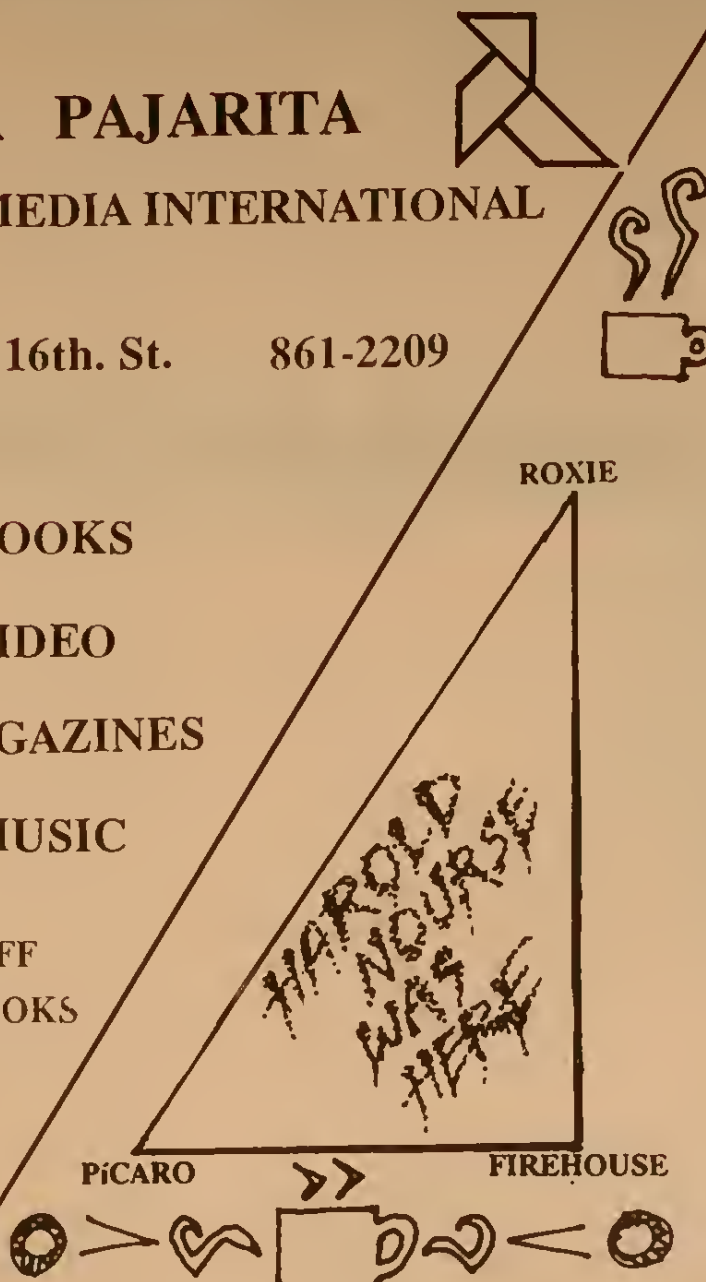
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# MISSION DISTRICT

## CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

**Spring Dance Program:** premieres new works Paquita", "Blue Lair" and more through the 7th at 60 Brady Street. Tickets \$10-12, call 567-0988 for program information and reservations.

**Pencil Neck Geeks:** and other oddities float to the surface in two wrestling movies by the very odd, late Andy Kaufman, one of which is "My Breakfast With Blassie" at the Roxie, 16th and Valencia. Also 4th, call theater for times.

**Support Group for Older Lesbians:** sponsored by Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) at Operation Concern, 1853 Market for lesbians over 60. Noon, bring a brown bag lunch. Also 17th.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

**Are We Winning Yet?:** a discussion of women's sports by author Mariah Burton Nelson at Modern Times, 968 Valencia, 8 PM.

**Innerwork:** Tony Sciallo's "probing examination of a week in the lives of five Tenderloin prostitutes who refuse to be victims" opens at Climate Theatre, 252 9th Street through May 4th. Tickets \$10-14, times and reservations (626-9196).

**Smoke, Smoke, Smoke that Cigarette:** or... if you're the mother of young children... quit. Free classes sponsored by Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services begin through May 23rd, call 565-7682 for information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

**Pandora's Box:** a reinterpretation of the classic creation myth by the Dance Brigade. "There are cavalry brigades and fire brigades," wrote a reviewer for the Sacramento Bee, "but there is nothing like the Dance Brigade!" At Theater Artaud, also 6th and 7th. 450 Florida Street, 8 PM. Tickets are \$13-15, early reservation recommended - call 465-3686.

**The Sleazy Uncle:** Vittorio Gassman and other sleazy Italians gas it up in this American premiere at the Roxie, through 10th.

**Dangerous Beauty:** a celebratory story by Lee Jenkins of an HIV positive gay man and a bisexual woman and "their search for a new sexual identity and practice" at Climate Theater through May 5th. Tickets \$10-14, info/reservations (626-9196).

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**The War is Over (?):** so fight injustice at home by marching and shouting at the National Day of Protest beginning 11 AM at Dolores Park in remembrance of the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination (actually April 4th, hut...) and in that spirit, consider also...

**Impressions of the Intifada:** personal impressions of occupation and resistance by 16 American artists opening at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission near 25th, reception 7-9 PM. Exhibit runs through April 27.

**House of Science:** a new film by Lynne Sachs with other "polyvalent" works like "Drawn and Quartered", "Scenic Ruptures" etc. at ATA, 992 Valencia near 20th. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

**Eye Control Theatre Company:** presents "Dimensions" at 1800 Square Feet, 719 Clementina near 8th and Folsom. \$4-8, 773-8706, also 14th, 21st, 28th.

**Creature Feature Night:** at the Oasis, 11th and Folsom, with Trunk, Green Day and Little My. 9 PM, \$4 cover, \$1 draft beers.

**Rebellion in the Philippines:** discussion by Benjamin Pimental, Walden Bello and theater group Teatro Ng Danan at Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 8 PM, Free.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

**Salute the Joy of Making Music:** at the Community Music Center, 544 Capp near 20th. Student and faculty members will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the venerable institution with honorary chairman SF Schools Superintendent Ramon Cortines. Details (647- 6015).

**Jimmy Beam:** "bold, blunt, brutal" actors' benefit performance (in Elvis decanter?) at Intersection, 446 Valencia near 15th. Play runs all month until 21st, call 626-3311 for times, reservations, etc.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

**The Expanding Secret Company:** dances "Shed" at 1800 Square Feet (see 5th or 7th for theatre information or call 773-8706). Also 16th, 23rd, 30th.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

**Forbidden Video:** Dennis Bernstein, journalist and author of "Friendly Dictator Trading Cards" displays leaked Pentagon documents and screens Ramsey Clark's video of human rights in Iraq that was censored by NBC. Modern Times, 968 Valencia, 8 PM, Free! (282-9246)

**Coca Cola Moon:** a world premiere of Ted Mack Talent Show producer Sandra



Sharpe’s adult Nepalese fable with music about living teenage goddesses who, once they reach puberty and begin to bleed, are dethroned, often becoming prostitutes. At New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street through April 21st. \$10- 12, (863-9834).

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

**Remembering the Pool at Best Western:** "existential musings" (sic) about "living in a floating culture that is bereft of any deep sense of inherited values from the past" from the Joe Goode Performance Group at Theater Artaud through 21st, call 621-7641 for information and reservations.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

**Dance Performance in Solidarity with Middle East Children and the People of El Salvador:** at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 7 PM till midnight, tickets \$3-10.

**The Sunshine and Sugar Show:** Drawings, paintings and assemblages of beautiful things that enrich life and make it worth living for; "things like racehorses, cats, birds, trees and Taylor Dayne" open at ATA Gallery; reception 6:30 PM. Through May 10th.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

**Potluck Brunch for Older Gay Men:** at Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero, noon to 3 PM. Bring a dish to share. Sponsored by GLOE (626-7000).

**Mascaritas Puppet Theater:** bilingual puppet shows at Mission Library, 3359 24th at Mission, noon, for kids of all ages.

**Nasty Girls:** give vent to disturbing sounds and furies from "the dark side of the female psyche". With Lydia Lunch, Beth B, Valerie Soe, Aline Mare and more at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, \$5, (824-3890). On the other hand, there's...

**Un Abrazo:** an evening of tenderness with Eduardo Galeano, 8 PM at the Victorian Theatre, 16th and Capp. This bilingual event benefits KPFA, \$6 advance tickets only at Modern Times. (282- 9246)

**Rock n’Growl Piano:** with Mike Mayonnaise - direct from Marsugi’s Bar and Grill in downtown San Jose to the 509 Cultural Center, 509 Ellis at Leavenworth, 9 PM. (So why are we listing something in the goddam Tenderloin? This guy used to be somebody in the Mission - under a different name, but you’ll have to find out for yourself who he is. Joe DiMaggio? Jim Gonzalez? Bill E. Badd? We’re not telling!)

MONDAY, APRIL 15

**Bay Area Theatresports:** brutal competitions for survival between desperate comedians at New Performance Gallery, 8 PM, also 22nd and 29th. 3153 17th Street, \$7. reservations 824-8220.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

**Rapta:** new dance from Spain by Vicente Saez assisted by Spanish dancer Francisco Lloberas with music by Eric Sleichim of the Blindman Quartet. Two men try "to comprehend themselves and then each other." New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street, 8 PM, \$10. (863-9834)

**Metropolis:** they cranked up the Cabinet of Dr. Caligari and garnished the Golem, now Club Foot Orchestra takes on another silent classic at the Castro (also 17th - call theatre or find calendar for times, blurbs). Probably not for Billy Idol fans.

**Make It Stop:** several human rights organizations present Adriana Bartow, a survivor of torture in Guatemala at St. Peter’s Church Hall, 1249 Alabama near 24th. 7 PM, \$4-6 donation, 550-9225.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

**Traditional Palestinian Dancing:** plus slides and an update on the current situation in the Middle East and El Salvador at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 7:30 PM. \$3.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

**New World Disorder:** an evening with Alexander Cockburn, writer for the Nation and the Anderson Valley Advertiser at the Victoria Theater, 16th off Mission. 8 PM, \$8.00 If you liked Noam Chomsky...

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**The Evil Weed:** defended at a benefit for Key Fiber Coalition at Komotion, 2779 16th Streets. Bands: Spot 1019, Skunkweed, Hand over Fist plus Hemp Legalization Information (not a band). 9 PM, call 648-4923 for info.

**Earth First:** films at ATA, 992 Valencia - Paris slaughterhouses, old growth redwoods and Bill Daniel’s latest "Toxxic City Dispatch". 8:30 PM, \$5.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

**Bi Any Other Name:** Bisexual people speak out bisexually at Modern Times, 968 Valencia, and read bisexual things. 7 PM, Free!

**Black Choreographers Moving Towards the 21st Century:** dance by Joanna Haigood, Nia Love-Pointer, Bebe Miller and David Rousseve at Theater Artaud through 27th. Call 621-7641 for times, prices and reservations. Of special Mission interest is a panel discussion among choreographers moderated by Julia Lewis on the 25th, Bebe Miller’s Jimi Hendrix Project and the open night Gala Wine Reception (\$25 but worth it).

MONDAY, APRIL 22

**Pre School Movies:** for kids 3-5 or adult burnout cases at the Mission Library, 3359 24th Street, 10 and 11 AM. Featuring: "Curious George (not that one) Goes to the Hospital", "Chicken Soup with Rice", "Caps for Sale" and "Hen Hlop". Also 23rd with additional 2 PM showing.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

**The War on Our Planet:** a close... hopefully not too close look at the burning oil wells of Kuwait and other ecological disasters sponsored by Radical Women at 523A Valencia. 7:30 PM (or come for dinner at 6:45 PM - \$5). (864-1278)

**From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil T. Frankweiler:** long-suppressed Surrealistic epic at Mission Library, 3359 24th Street, 3:30 PM especially for all you unemployed!

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

**Alice Walker Reading:** at Old Wives’ Tales, 1009 Valencia, 8 PM. Free! (but if you can give a donation or buy her book). News pick of the month!

**Zuni Man/Woman** a discussion of the berdache We Wha by Will Roscoe, editor of "Living the spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology. Free! 8 PM at Modern Times, 968 Valencia.

**Smell Women of Color!:** Benefit poetry reading for Smell This at Maelstrom Books, Valencia near 16th at 7:30 PM.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

**Up The Ante:** drama by and for women in the arts at Brava! Studio Theatre (see "Egg" column), 2180 Bryant at 20th. With "A Kind of Alaska" based on the movie Awakenings, \$8-10, 641-7689 for times, information and reservations.

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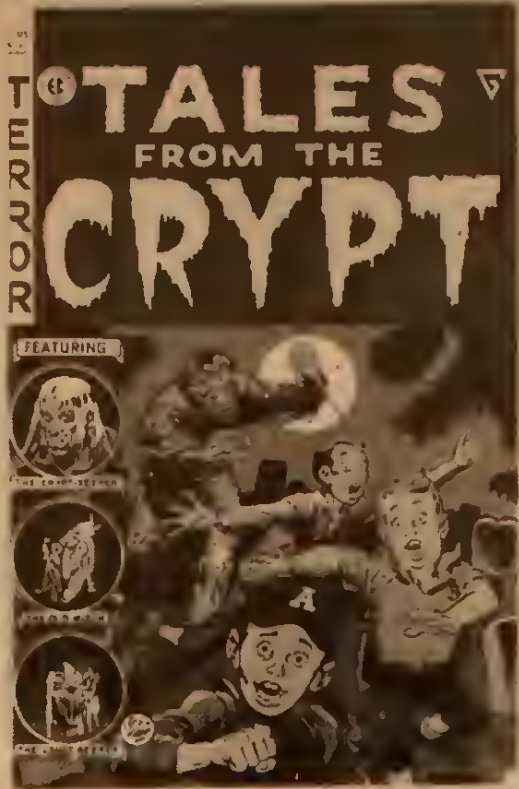


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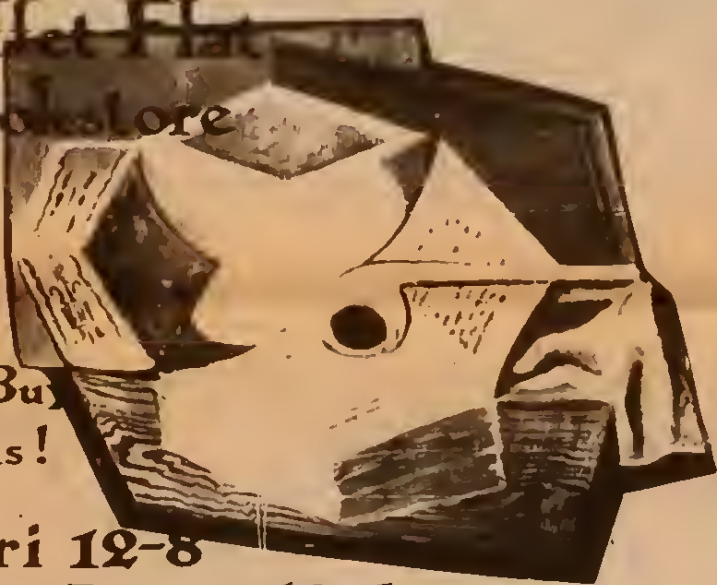
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by Robert Cole and  
Lowell Williams

**ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19):** How do you deal with free time? This is an important question because you will have lots of it this month. Set aside business ambitions, tell your friends and lovers to go away for a while, create some space in which you have total control of what's going on. Re-style our self image by changing your hair style and buying some new clothes. Listen, honey, if you don't take good care of yourself, nobody else will. P.S. The last ten days of this month will provide you with several extraordinary financial opportunities.

**TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20):** The first half of April is the time of year when you are most likely to take big risks. From your point of view, these risks are natural progressions which must occur if you intend to reach your goals, but to friends and family you appear to be going way out on a very thin limb. Avoid confusion by refusing to explain your motives; follow the inner guides and ignore outside criticism. The second half of the month begins the season of Taurus and your birthday party; plan a real wing-dinger for yourself this year.

**GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20):** You're going to need a little extra voodoo this month if you are serious about the original plans you made last month. Carry your crystals, ring your bells, pray to your favorite gods and goddesses. The heebie-jeebies are weirdly pervasive, so confront angry friends with your power instead of your paranoia. While it would be easier to run away and hide, you would regret it. Toward month's end, re-direct your energies to conquering an old bad habit which could eventually have serious health implications.

**CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22):** Sitting on top of the world with nothing to do but enjoy yourself proves to be a "problem" for a fuss-budget like you. Realize that you deserve success; give an important speech, get your face on the TV, accept the applause of your associates. But more importantly, let go of your worries of falling off the pinnacle of success. Sooner or later you will have to move on and let the others have their fair share. And, for god's sake, don't be afraid to open up and let others have your secrets of success.

**LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22):** It's time for you to realize how really different you are from everyone else, even from your dearest friends, even from your lover. For too long, you've been trying to get into the "in crowd"; you've twisted your personality all around hoping to gain acceptance. You've been working from a position of isolation and rejection. This month, let out a big roar and get used to the fact that you are one of the weirdest people on this planet. Talk your talk and walk your walk. Make everybody else wish they were a Leo.

**VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22):** A person who you admire greatly refuses to accept your help this month, and it will force you to realize that loving someone doesn't mean that you have to heal their wounds or to make them feel better. You cannot work from the assumption that everybody needs your help just because you thrive on giving it. Get rid of the "com" in compassion. Let lust, intrigue, jealousy and sin take over for just this one month. It will do you a world of good, and it will knock your lover's sock off.

**LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22):** Spring vibrations usually put you in the friendliest of moods, and this year will be no different. The rush of old and new faces appearing around you will, at first, be overwhelmingly flattering. But by the end of the month it becomes apparent that these "friends" are really weird and you have to ask yourself if you want to hang around with this crowd of oddballs. Sure you do! Without a good dose of strangeness, your life would be ruled by TV commercials and your mother's criticism. Freak out with your friends and take one as your lover.

**SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 22):** All you want is light, plenty of light. Sunlight, flashlight, lovelight—anything will do but you need lots and lots of light to surround you. Oh, there's one other thing you need this month—a dependable means of transportation. Your job is very demanding with scheduled appointments already crowding your calendar, but you can get where you have to be without a car. Check out public transit or invest in a second-hand bicycle. Join the transportation revolution even if it means re-structuring your schedule a little.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21):** A party-hearty spirit prevails for the first half of the month; it's been such a long, long time since you could let your hair down and get a little foot-loose. The intense presence of younger people, possibly relative's kids, will stretch your sense of adventure to the limit. But it sure feels good to play around again. Having fun need not conflict with your health obligations. In fact, you'll be much happier if you stay away from drugs and chemicals for the time being. Next month health is the main issue.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19):** There's a strong possibility that you may decide to pack up and move out of the house you're in right now. You're not sure where you would move to, nor are you ready to bring along your old housemates. The urge to find someplace else to live is spooky and mysterious. Consult your mother and father figures before leaping to conclusions. Their support (or lack of it) will make all the difference in the world. If moving is in the cards, you'll be on your way by the 28th.

**AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18):** This month provides you with very little hype or excitement. Your job scene is off, your energy level is down and, unless you're ready for it, your anxiety is high. In reality you're simply exhausted and now's the time to take a good month-long rest. Notify all those who depend upon you that you're taking a break; find a good long book at your favorite bookstore; put your couch in a window which lets lots of sunshine in; and just cruise around in your robe. Don't worry, the world can take care of itself for now.

**PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20):** If a friend send you one of those money-making chain letters early in the month, be sure to follow all the instructions because weird investments will yield high profits by month's end. As your cash flow increases you will find it necessary to travel in the last ten days of the month. Visiting family members is a big priority, so you might be hopscotching from one place to another until the first of next month. A woman in your family desperately needs your support; you'd be crazy to ignore her desires.





# SADAM'S MAGIC KINGDOM

Poor Art Agnos. All that money to knock down the Embarcadero freeway and build his dream tunnel, and now tourist revenues are down because the rest of the country thinks San Francisco is "treasonous" for having had such big anti-war demonstrations. Conventions and tour groups are cancelling right and left, wanting nothing to do with a bunch of screaming wackos who dared to criticize the glorious slaughter of 100,000 retreating Iraqis. And yet, the more money we lose, the more Art wants to spend on the Embarcadero. What's a city to do?

Obviously, we must repent of our political sins in front of the whole country, and do it in a way that will generate tourism. A parade to welcome back the troops is not the answer, though, because you know the demonstrators will show up with their treasonous signs, and that's all the rest of the country will see on the evening news. If we want to be taken back into the American fold, we need to make a really grand gesture of atonement. And I know just the thing.

It came to me as I was watching Art give his speech under the freeway, the day they started tearing it down. The friend I was with said, "Why don't they just get the Air Force to bomb the damned thing?" Now that made sense. The Air Force has such smart bombs that the freeway would be demolished with pinpoint accuracy; not a pebble would fly out of place, and no one, absolutely no one would get hurt. A clean strike.

I started picturing Art with a little more weight on him, maybe with a wave in his hair. Give him a little rhinoplasty, have him grow a bushy moustache under the new nose, sew some epaulets on his suit jacket and Presto! Saddam Agnos!

Then, as we begin digging Art's tunnel, we can build him a bunker. We can have him give daily speeches from the bunker and broadcast them all over the country. See, the country loved to hate Saddam Hussein; his face on the nightly news gave unity to the herd-mind, and that unity is

already fading. The country needs to have a face to hate, and since it already hates San Francisco, why not let it be Art's face upon the dartboard? I mean, he is a democrat.

But that's only the beginning; we still need to generate tourism. What we could do is charge a small fee to each visitor at the city limits or the airport, give them each a uniform, a toy rifle and a rousing patriotic speech, then let them loose in the city. We could hire people to be demonstrators in the Haight; set up "repatriation camps" in Golden Gate Park to which these "traitors" could be herded by our patriotic tourists, who would then proceed to ridicule and browbeat the "treasonous wackos" into submission.

Think how gratified our visitors will be to watch genuine San Francisco peaceniks break down blubbing and embrace the flag! Think of the tips we'd make!

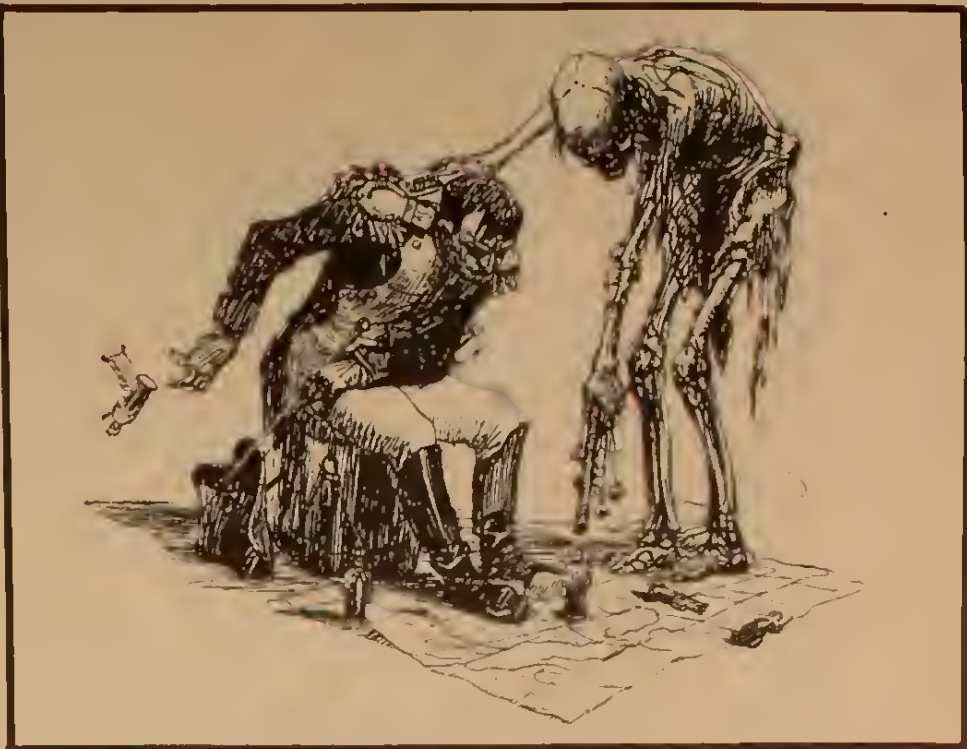
[Note: Really gross, racist proposal censored. - Ed.]

Tourists could point their toy guns and say "BANG!" and fake Iraqis would lie down and play dead. Photographers could be on hand to commemorate these "victories" in handsome 8 X 10 souvenirs showing the heroic U.S. "soldier" bestriding the piles of dead, and Old Glory flying high in the background.

Shops on Fisherman's Wharf could custom-print t-shirts for the "troops", giving personalized body counts, like: "My Daddy killed 2,000 enemies of freedom in San Francisco and all I got was this stupid shirt!"

For a larger fee, more affluent visitors could be taken up in B-52s and allowed to drop "smart bombs" on abandoned buildings, vacant lots — and, of course, the old Embarcadero. Again, these bombs are so smart that hundreds of tons of them could be dropped on a single neighborhood, and not one person would suffer so much as a scratch!

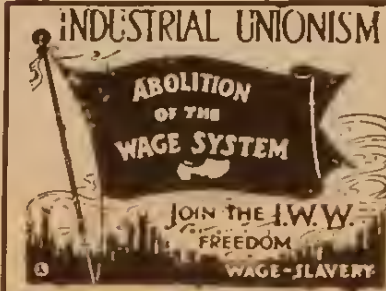
And then there's Art. Each night, right after the "thousand points of light" anti-aircraft fireworks display over the bay, a



regiment of tourists and conventioners could storm the bunker and drag Art out in chains and handcuffs. The winner of a special lottery would be allowed to [censored]. Then, everyone would sing the Star Spangled Banner, have dinner at a nice, expensive restaurant, and retire to their nice, expensive tax-paying hotels for the night.

by Frank Deadbeat

(Note: For all you sickos who demand the real, unexpurgated Deadbeat, send \$10 - cash only - to Frank, c/o the News, 513 Valencia, SF 94110. We'll mail you this column with the dirty parts left in! in a plain brown envelope. Order Now! And don't forget Frank's Certificate of Pacifism, only \$16.00 or... get both for \$25.00 cash. Such a deal!)



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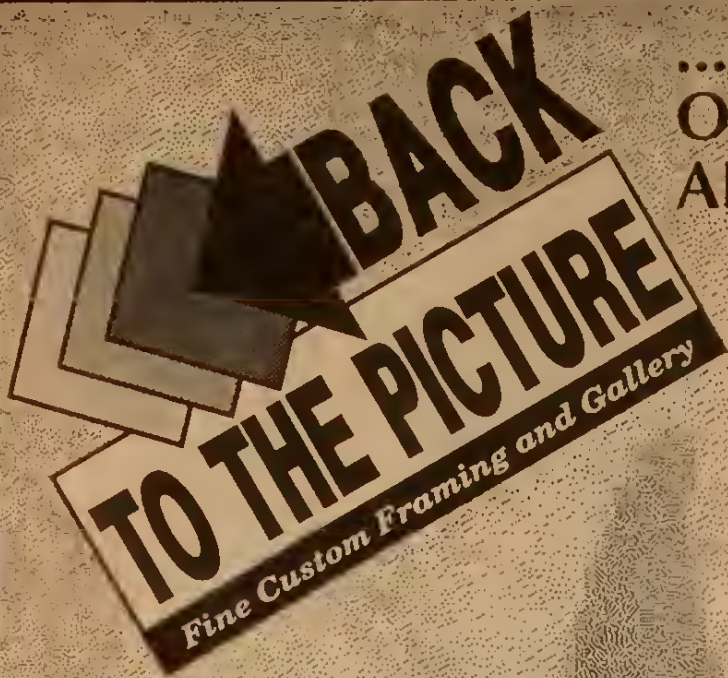
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